Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Fitial appoints new acting chief for CPA. **PAGE 2**

McCain names chairs for NMI, Guam, A. Samoa. **PAGE 3**

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the governor's reasons in his decision to declare a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Obama VP

Barack Obama said Thursday he's chosen his running mate, but coyly kept all the details to himself.

NATION...Page 10

OFWs Burdens

A US-generated financial crisis is testing overseas Filipino workers' ability to send cash home.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

VMA Singer

Rihanna is back for another performance at the MTV Video Music Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Because the imported Aggreko generators will not be fully operational until mid-September, CUC will not be in a position to provide reliable utility services for the traditional opening of our public schools after the summer break.

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

Fitial: Delay start of classes

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has asked Public School System Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita to delay the start of classes for at least two weeks due to the island's power crisis.

Classes in public schools are currently set to begin Sept. 8.

"Because the imported Aggreko generators will not be fully operational until mid-September, [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] will not be in a position to provide reliable utility services for the traditional opening of our public schools after the summer break," Fitial wrote in a letter to Blanco-Maratita yesterday.

The PSS board should delay the start of school for at least two weeks, or until CUC can provide reliable utility services, he wrote.

See FITIAL on Page 4

AMP celebrates 30-year anniversary today

Children play on the globe in front of the Visitors Center of the American Memorial Park.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The American Memorial Park on Saipan marked its 30th anniversary on Aug. 18 but the birthday remembrance and celebration is being held today, Aug. 23, with several activities lined up at the Visitors Center and Amphitheater.

Creachbaum

The celebration starts at 10am with a wreath laying ceremony at the Court of Honor and Flag Circle sponsored by the National Park Service, Military and Veterans Affairs Office, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Frank Cepeda.

The Costal Resource Management Office is also sponsoring a film showing of the Oscar winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* by former Vice President Al Gore.

The film showing, which starts at

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House 'kills' improved immigration status bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House yesterday "killed" a bill that proposed to grant improved immigration status to long-time guest workers in the CNMI.

Santos says bill promotes 'false hopes'

With 13-2 votes, the House adopted the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee report recommending the shelving of the controversial legislation.

Only Reps. Christina Sablan and Edward Salas, who co-authored House Bill 16-86, opposed the adoption of the committee report. After a long deliberation, Rep. Victor Hocog announced his withdrawal as co-author of the bill. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, who is also co-author, was absent.

During the deliberation, Rep. Rosemond Santos, who is chairman of the JGO Committee, said she doesn't know how much more the committee members

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Local

Fitial to lawmakers: Let CUC hire alien workers

SEDC urges the governor to use emergency powers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday urged the Legislature to amend the law to allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to hire alien workers to address the severe manpower shortage at CUC's power generation division.

This came as the Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council has adopted a resolution urging Fitial to exercise his powers to hire guest workers for CUC to ensure the consistent delivery of power, water, and wastewater services to Saipan residents.

SEDC also asked the governor to urge the Board of Education to consider delaying the opening of public schools on Saipan—currently scheduled to open on Sept. 8—until Sept. 16 or until such time that Aggreko's temporary power plants begin producing the additional power to allow public schools to operate uninterrupted or at the very minimum experience no more than two hours of outage during school hours.

SEDC's resolution, approved Wednesday, was signed by co-chairs Robert Jones and Marian Aldan-Pierce and attested by assistant to co-chairpersons Teresa K. Kim.

Citing the crisis situation at CUC's power plants, Fitial asked Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios to immediately amend Public Law 15-108 to allow CUC to hire skilled foreign workers to repair and maintain the power plants.

"As CUC executive director Antonio S. Muña previously communicated, a change in law to allow CUC to hire such skilled workers would provide tremendous relief to the overburdened CUC crew struggling to keep our engines running," said the governor in his letter yesterday.

The chief executive noted that his view is also shared by the SEDC.

According to SEDC's resolution, CUC currently lacks the manpower to effectively operate its power plants as it is unable to hire the necessary workers due to the restriction placed by Public Law 15-108 in hiring guest workers.

SEDC said Fitial's Aug. 1, 2008, executive order 2008-10 declaring a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI, empowers the governor to suspend the restrictions placed by P.L. 15-108 in order to hire foreign workers to fill the technical and professional positions at CUC.

SEDC asked Fital to invoke the power conferred upon him by the executive order in order to hire 12 or the necessary number of alien workers.

Last Monday, the House unanimously agreed to let CUC hire 12 alien workers and renew the contracts of seven others who are currently employed at the utility agency.

The bill, introduced by Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, originally sought to hire 12 guest workers. But Rep. Edward T. Salas offered an amendment on the floor to change it to 19 during the session.

With a 16-0 vote, the legislation is now with the Senate.

The Senate deliberated the bill yesterday afternoon. When Saipan Tribune left the Senate chamber, the senators were still discussing the bill.

Power plant officials have informed Muña that the removal of the 20 alien workers in September 2007 dramatically impacted the overall operation of the power generation division.

The officials cited that the manpower shortage has affected staff morale to the point of exhaustion, such that no one wants to report for work anymore on weekends and during emergency calls.

After losing doctor, Tinian health center holds firm

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

TINIAN—After the resignation of the Tinian Health Center's only doctor, its staff here have risen to the challenge of keeping the center in operation and are able to provide the treatment the island's people need, a leading center official said in an interview Friday.

In July, Dr. Ronaldo Toledo resigned his post at the health center, the primary healthcare provider on Tinian, leaving it without a full-time doctor. The center is now searching for someone to replace him but Department of Public Health officials have said the loss of Toledo at the center will not diminish the level of its service.

Without a doctor, however, the burden of caring for Tinian's sick has shifted onto the shoulders of its physician assistant, Terri Clawson, the center's staff and its nurse practitioner.

"There's an increased burden," said Clawson, after evaluating three patients in rapid succession. Yet the health center, she added, is still able to care for the public even after Toledo's departure.

"It's not a catastrophe. Our patients are being treated and treated appropriately."

Physicians assistants, she noted, are trained in complex disciplines like surgery and internal medicine. Moreover, she said, a consultation with off-island

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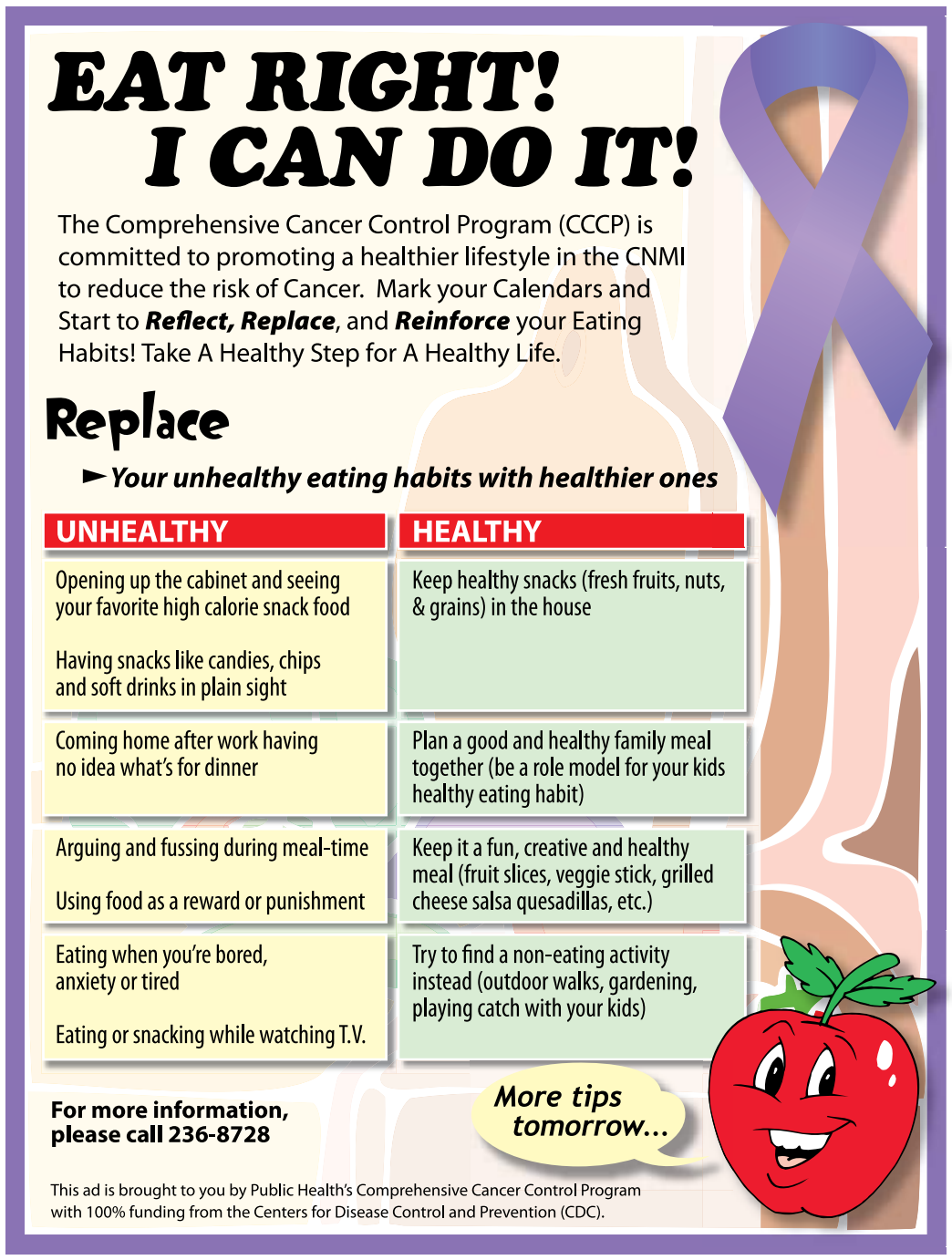
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Invitation for Bid
NMC No.: IFB 08-002

PURCHASE OF NEW FARM TRACTOR

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service Department (CREES) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of one (1) new farm tractor to be delivered on or before September 30th, 2008. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide the following information. **Any proposal received that does not provide the information requested below (A–I) may be rejected.** Proposals rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

Due Date/Time: **Friday, September 12th, 2008 10:00 a.m.**
PUBLIC BID OPENING: **Friday, September 12th, 2008 10:30 a.m.**

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due September 12th, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations, however, in accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement. This procurement is funded wholly from federal sources. For bidders located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu)

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

/ss/ Duane R.T. Sablan
NMC, Acting Procurement Officer

/ss/ Ross H. Manglona
Director, NMC CREES

Fitial appoints new acting chief for CPA

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has appointed Efrain F. Camacho as the new acting executive director for the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Camacho's appointment came after a three-hour power outage on Thursday at the airport that delayed two flights bound for Korea and Japan and left hundreds of passengers stranded for hours.

In a memorandum issued to all department and activity heads on Aug. 21, Fitial said the delegation of authority to Camacho would remain in effect until such time that a quorum is established with the CPA board of directors.

Fitial also requested department and activity heads to give their full cooperation and assistance to Camacho as he assumes his responsibilities.

Camacho could not be reached for comment yesterday as he was out of the office on important matters.

He replaced former acting executive director Lee Cabrera, who was also unavailable for comment as he was in a meeting.

CPA is currently facing problems like two non-operational back-up generators and the recent resignation of several employees.

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McCain names chairs for NMI, Guam, A. Samoa

HENDERSON, NV—U.S. Sen. John McCain's presidential campaign announced this week that three veteran Republican leaders will chair McCain's campaigns for American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Radewagen

Reyes

Sablan

The three jurisdictions together will send 27 delegates to the Republican National Convention, which opens on Sept. 1, 2008, in St. Paul, Minn.

American Samoan Republican National Committeewoman Amata Coleman Radewagen will join former Guam Republican Party chair David J. Sablan and former Northern Marianas GOP chair Joseph C. Reyes to organize and coordinate the campaign's grassroots efforts in their territories. They will communicate McCain's message of country first, greater national security, a stronger economy and meaningful government reform.

"John McCain has spent his entire life putting our country above his own personal and political well being," said Radewagen, American Samoa's chairman, who is sixth in seniority in the RNC. "That is important to Samoans, who are proud to be Americans."

Sablan said, "John McCain'sexperience and bold, principled leadership garners a great deal of support in Guam and I am proud to support his campaign."

Reyes, a U.S. Army veteran who currently chairs the Commerce and Tourism Committee in the 16th Northern Marianas Legislature, added: "In a period of our history when national security is so important, we need John McCain's tested leadership. By extending his campaign to our islands, John McCain has demonstrated he cares about us and through the Pacific leadership we will have the mechanism to convey our concerns to his administration."

Reyes and Sablan are proven winners as party leaders, with Republicans in 2001 winning a historic 16 of 18 House seats, control of the Senate, a Washington representative and the governorship under Reyes's chairmanship; Sablan followed in 2002 by guiding the Guam GOP to recapture the governorship after eight years of Democrat control. The two men also are successful business leaders in their islands.

A long time community activist and member of numerous civic organizations, Radewagen also has served at the national level on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and as assistant secretary of the 2000 Republican National Convention. She was 2003 "Woman of the Year" for the National Association of Professional Asian Women and was recipient of the International Leadership Foundation's "Visionary Award" this year. ***(PR)***

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Welcome to SAEF School!

SAEF School was established September 14, 2007 as a non-profit, 1-12, college prepatory school. The school is presently located in the Marianas Business Plaza on the 3rd floor.

The mission of SAEF School is to improve the world through education--one student at a time. This is accomplished by facilitating student progress towards a successful college experience. SAEF School strives to keep learners engaged at their level, pace, and interest level. SAEF administration believes that this can best be accomplished in an enjoyable atmosphere where each student feels valued.

Class times are M-F 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM. For grades 1 through 8, SAEF follows the Core Knowledge Sequence curriculum. Time 4 Learning, Spelling Power, Hooked on Phonics, Saxon Math and other programs are also utilized. In cooperation with Keystone National School, for grades 9 through 12, SAEF offers a wide variety of AP and regular classes. This program is accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS).

For the enrichment of all, SAEF welcomes international students and hosts international groups.

The more you get to know us, the more you will find that first and foremost, SAEF is interested in providing and promoting quality education.

Dr. E. Roland Brown, Principal

All are invited to one of two information meetings at SAEF School on August 26th at 4-5:00PM or 7-8:00PM

Fees

Application	$10 (one-time)
Registration	$50/year
Materials	$200/year

Tuition

Grades 1-8	$325/month
Grades 9-12	$4950/year (10 months) (Payment Plan Available)
After School Study Hall, ESL, or Individualized Study	$120/month (3:30 PM - 5:00 PM)

Saipan American Education Foundation
Improving the World through Education
drb@saefschool.org

SAEF School

2008-2009 School Schedule

1st Quarter September 8 - November 12	(45 days)
2nd Quarter November 13 - January 30	(45 days)
3rd Quarter February 2 - April 7	(45 days)
4th Quarter April 8 - June 15	(45 days)
Make-up days (if needed)	December 29-31, January 2, 2009
Make-up days (if needed)	June 16 - 19, 2009

Additional Teachers' Workdays

Teachers' Orientation	September 2, 2008
Education Day	November 22, 2008
Wrap-up	June 16, 2009

School Days

Monday - Friday	8:00AM - 3:00PM

No-School Days

September 1	Labor Day
October 13	Commonwealth Cultural Day
November 4	Citizenship Day
Noveber 11	Veterans' Day
November 22	Education Day
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 8	Constitution Day
December 24-26	Christmas Break
December 29-31	Intersession (If not, Make-up days)
January 1	New Year's Day
January 2	Intersession (If not, Make-up day)
January 19	Martin Luther King Day
February 16	Presidents' Day
March 24	CNMI Covenant Day
April 9-13	Easter Break
May 25	Memorial Day
June 15	Last Day of School/Commencement

2008-2009 Available Seats

1st Grade	0	7th Grade	7
2nd Grade	0	8th Grade	0
3rd Grade	9	9th Grade	9
4th Grade	0	10th Grade	0
5th Grade	8	11th Grade	8
6th Grade	0	12th Grade	7

CUC chief: No employee preferences

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employees should not be telling landlords and the general public where and how they should buy backup supplies, such as extra water, to deal with power outages, said CUC executive director Antonio Muña.

"In general, maybe that should be clarified," he said. "We don't want to have any appearance of impropriety in that regard."

Muña said any reports of such cases were probably employees acting in good faith.

"I think they're just trying to be helpful," he said. "Just advising them [residents or landlords], especially if they are new on island."

Muña said employees should not be specific, but instead inform the landlord or public on what options are available.

"We are aware of those that do provide and might fill in the gap where CUC may be falling behind on," he added.

NMI Humanities Council receives 67K grant

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Endowment for the Humanities announced yesterday $27.6 million dollars in grant awards and offers to 222 successful applicants, including $67,430 for the CNMI.

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities received $49,930 in outright funding and matching funds worth $17,500 for the project, "We the People: Miscellaneous Projects" directed by Debra Cabrera.

The project focuses on cultural, social, economic and political issues, including a major immigrant group and contemporary life as seen through the eyes of young adults. The project aims to preserve and disseminate primary historical resources important to the study of the history of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"The mission of the Endowment is to encourage lifelong learning in the humanities," said NEH chair Bruce Cole. "Each project receiving support today will further that mission by helping our nation's citizens gain insight to the ideas and events that inspire us all."

The funding will help institutions secure long-term support for humanities programs by enriching humanities education; supporting educators' professional development; and helping scholars use digital tools to enhance scholarship and make humanities resources more accessible.

The grants will also provide local, national and historical sites in American history the chance to purchase high-quality media, library, and museum programming for public audiences.

The Guam Humanities Council received $55,760 in outright funding and $17,500 requiring local matching funds, for a total of $73,260.

The Guam project, "8,000, How Will It Change Our Lives?: Community Conversations in the U.S. Military Buildup in Guam," seeks to inform the Guam community about the U.S. military buildup. The Council is working in conjunction with the Mayor's Council and other community based organizations and local military based groups.

Marshalls signs landmark fishing accord

NIUE—The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency's Director General witnessed the signing of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement 3rd Implementing Arrangement by Marshall Islands in Niue yesterday. This historic subregional arrangement, administered by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, provides for new measures to manage fishing in their Exclusive Economic Zones and in high seas pockets (areas of high seas bounded by the waters of member countries).

Christopher Loeak, Minister in Assistance to the President of Marshall Islands Litokwa Tomeing, signed the Parties to the Nauru Agreement 3rd Implementing Arrangement after the Forum Leaders' meeting in Niue.

The parties to the Nauru Agreement (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu) in May 2008 agreed, in an act of regional cooperation, to take measures to conserve their valuable tuna stocks including:

- Fishing vessels will no longer be allowed to fish in high seas pockets adjacent to the Exclusive Economic Zones as a condition of their licenses
- The use of Fishing Aggregating Devices on purse seine fishing vessels, a device used to attract tuna which often results in the capture of juvenile fish, will be banned in the PNA Members' EEZs for three months of each year (July-September)
- Retention of all bigeye, skipjack & yellowfin tuna catch on board purse seine fishing vessels (a measure to stop the catch and dumping of fish and other non-target species, such as sharks, at sea).
- 100 percent coverage of purse seine fishing vessels with observers. (Observers monitor fishing vessel practices to report back to the national governments and FFA in order to monitor and report on implementation of fishing measures).

The 3rd Implementing Arrangement follows a tradition of innovation by PNA leaders in developing new initiatives to manage tuna resources in the region—the 1st Implementing Arrangement established a regional fishing vessel register for the signatories to the agreement which was later taken on board by all FFA members and is now the FFA Vessel Monitoring System. The 2nd Implementing Arrangement established minimum terms and conditions for fishing in signatory waters which is now the Minimum Terms and Conditions applicable to all FFA members.

FFA administers several fishing treaties and arrangements and provides support for members in negotiations and meetings regarding binding agreements such as the PNA Agreement as part of its work to strengthens national capacity and regional solidarity so its 17 members can manage, control and develop their tuna fisheries now and in the future.

FITIAL

From Page 1

"I regret that the CUC power plants are in such a state of disrepair after years of neglect, but I am confident we will be able to finally resolve our power crisis with the arrival of temporary generators from Aggreko International," Fitial said in the letter.

Blanco-Maratita said yesterday she would have to meet with PSS Commissioner Rita Sablan before she could comment, although, she added, officials must remember a system-wide delay will mean schools on Rota and Tinian will also be affected.

Members of the Strategic Economic Development Council also share the governor's concerns, Fitial wrote.

On Tuesday, Council members drafted a resolution to Fitial urging the start of school to be pushed back to Sept. 16, or until public schools on Saipan can operate uninterrupted or experience outages for no more than two hours during school hours. PSS is required to send students home if a power outage lasts more than two hours.

The resolution and letter are meant to bring the power crisis to the board's attention, said Charles Reyes Jr., press secretary for the Governor's Office.

"We feel, realistically, we will not be able to provide reliable power," he said. "Basically, we're asking the Board of Education and seeking their support. We don't want to have a situation where students attend school and a significant power outage occurs."

Details, such as how this would affect holiday breaks and the end of the school year, would be left to the board to decide, Reyes said.

"We're not going to tell them how to run their affairs," he said.

The Aggreko generators are currently being shipped in four parts, and are expected to be operational in mid-September. The first shipment should arrive this weekend.

Reyes said he believes the board will have enough time to make all of the necessary changes before the start of the year.

"We think everything will go according to plan," he said.

Officials are also confident there will be no delay in the starting of the Aggreko generators in September, Reyes said.

"Once we get everything connected and online, we should have substantial relief, if not total relief from these power outages," he added.

As of Aug. 18, there were 29.6 megawatts of available CUC power. The capacity for CUC generators is 116.2 megawatts, according to CUC's status report.

HOUSE

From Page 1

want to analyze the bill.

Santos said they have gone through books and listened to both sides, but because of the implementation of the federal immigration law next year, the bill is a moot point.

"And quite honestly, it's giving false hopes," the chair pointed out.

Sablan and Salas reiterated their initial position that the JGO Committee report was improper as it was drafted and signed only by Santos and two JGO committee members—Reps. Joseph Reyes and Edwin Aldan—"outside of a properly assembled committee meeting to review and adopt the report."

Salas said he was shocked by the action of Santos and two others because, as members of the same committee, he and Sablan were not given the opportunity to either concur with it or not.

"I believe that is not proper!" Salas stressed.

In expressing opposition to the legislation, Rep. Diego Benavente said there are hundreds of locals who are looking for jobs and the government has been accused many times of circumventing the law to allow businesses to continue hiring nonresident workers even though there are hundreds of locals going to Labor.

"You will see a long list of our own people who are trying to find jobs, only to find out later that somehow or someway the businesses would circumvent the law to continue hiring alien workers," said Benavente, a former lieutenant governor.

He said that federalization will result in changes in the business community and the economy.

"But really, given that we have not seen the regulation that allows for this transition period to deal with these concerns… you really can't say that this [bill] is the answer, that this is the necessary tool," Benavente pointed out.

Sablan said lawmakers should be given the opportunity to offer amendments and improve the bill if that is what the body wishes to happen.

Sablan appealed to members of the House that they should be given the opportunity to fully and thoughtfully debate the pressing labor and immigration issues raised by the legislation.

"I would like to appeal to you once again, do not adopt the committee report," Sablan said before voting took place.

"It's disappointing. I maintained my initial position that the standing committee report was improper, it was incomplete, it didn't do justice to the three public hearings and all the comments that we received since the bill was introduced," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* after the session.

For the lawmakers who opposed the bill, Sablan noted that their opposition was not even explained or elaborated in the community report.

"My heart does go out to the people…and the businesses who are hopeful about at least a thoughtful deliberation and at least consideration of the proposal. That didn't happen," Sablan said.

At this point, she said, they are going to weigh future options.

AMP

From Page 1

12pm at the Visitors Center, is about global warming and its impact on the environment.

A demonstration of the Japanese art of origami or the art of arranging papers into various shapes and an exhibit on the Cultural Colors Beads of the Marianas are scheduled from 2pm to 5pm at the Visitors Center, sponsored by the U.S. National Parks Service.

Sarah Creachbaum, superintendent of the National Parks Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, will lead the welcoming ceremony and presentation of cake at the amphitheater at 2pm.

Other activities include the presentation of the Brown Tree Snake Program by the Division of Fish and Wildlife; Brown Tree Snake Game with prizes, Junior Ranger Booklet and Scavenger Hunt with prizes, Information Table and Partners and Rangers Career Table, organized by the National Park Service.

Creachbaum said war veterans and their families and children would be joining the fun.

Some 12 members of the board of directors of the Arizona Memorial Museum Association will also be present to witness the occasion.

Creachbaum said these activities are a way of continuing to honor the sacrifices made by war veterans during the Marianas campaign.

"We want to thank the people of the CNMI with the continued cooperation in maintaining the parks," said Creachbaum, adding that many people have noticed the additional people maintaining the park.

She said their biggest achievement in 30 years is the construction of the new buildings, which serve as meeting places and other amenities.

"It shows that we are coming of age," she added.

Some of the challenges they are facing include offering of programs, protection of resources and keeping the park clean at all times.

AFTER

From Page 2

doctors is a phone call away.

"We have every ability to call Saipan," said Clawson. "We're fully functional. We're seeing patients in the emergency room and we're treating them."

Majority of the roughly 20 patients Clawson sees each day, including the seriously ill, she added, can receive the treatment they need on Tinian without any need to send them to Saipan. Yet some cases do require off-island attention, such as those requiring a ventilator—a tool the health center does not have—or certain bone fractures.

"It's not an automatic decision that they go to Saipan," she said. "That decision is made based on what the resources are here to treat them."

Transporting patients off Tinian requires either an airlift by helicopter or sending them on the inter-island ferry, she noted, a prospect that sometimes requires the center to keep a patient stable for long periods in order to get them aboard. And airlifts have become more complicated recently, she added, due to federal regulations that can restrict helicopter flights to Tinian at night. But in life-threatening emergencies, exceptions to those rules can be granted, she said.

Alexander Gorman, legal counsel for the Department of Public Health, said previously that doctors from Saipan would continue to go to Tinian Friday through Sunday until a replacement is found.

MCS is awarded six-year accreditation

For the third time in a row, Mount Carmel School has been granted a six-year accreditation term by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This comes as a result of a report from a WASC site visit team, which noted the school's "nurturing, caring, Catholic environment, and its dedicated and caring teachers."

In his letter to the school, Thomas C. Beecher, the Commission chair, wrote, "Please accept our congratulations on the quality of instruction being offered in your school." He said, "This action was taken after a careful study of the Visiting Committee Report, which noted many laudable aspects of the school."

While the accreditation process is and should be an ongoing one of constant self-evaluation, the school's official efforts for reaccreditation began in 2005 when school administrators led the school in preparing the 2005 mid-term report. Each year after that, the school compiled annual reports that chronicled and analyzed the school's efforts to meet goals and objectives laid out in the last accreditation study in 2002, while also setting new goals and objectives for the upcoming years.

According to the WASC site visit team, the school "has made significant progress on their previous schoolwide action plans…[while continuing] to be flexible in their efforts to adapt to the changing needs and requirements of the school that affects student learning."

Looking ahead at the school's goals for the future, the team recognized that "the school community…is well aware of their needs and is prepared to implement the goals within its action plans."

The team further noted several strengths of the school, including "a strong Catholic identity"; "a highly dedicated and committed faculty, staff, and administration"; "a spirit of collaboration and accountability"; "a strong sense of community and family amongst the stakeholders"; "a safe, healthy, nurturing, and positive environment"; "a rich array of co-curricular activities"; and "students [who] regularly participate and are successful in several local competitions and community projects." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The WASC visiting team gathers with school administrators at the conclusion of their Accreditation Site Visit. From left, Angelita Buniag, Lynn Quezada, Louise Concepcion, Yolanda Gabriel, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Sandy Dismas, Carol Grewal, Karen McWilliams, Bobby Baldazo, and Margaret DelaCruz.

Motion: California can't extradite Miura

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Governor's warrant on which Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura is being held is illegal, and the state of California has no right to extradite Miura, lawyer Mark B. Hanson wrote in a motion of habeas corpus filed in the CNMI Superior Court Friday.

The Court Clerk's Office stayed open an additional 30 minutes so Bruce Berline could file the motion. Hanson, Berline and William M. Fitzgerald represent Miura on Saipan. Celebrity lawyer Mark Geragos represents Miura in California.

The State of California is seeking Miura's extradition on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the killing of his wife in Los Angeles, Calif., in 1981. He was convicted for the crime but later acquitted by Japan's High Court. Miura was arrested at Saipan International Airport in February and has been in jail since.

In the motion, Hanson said Miura does not stand charged with a crime in California, so there is no reason for his continued detention on Saipan.

The acts detailed in the California arrest warrant were the same as the acts for which Miura was convicted and subsequently acquitted for in Japan, the motion states.

But if the court does find that the acts he has been charged with are different, the nearly 20-year delay in seeking his extradition does not follow due process, Hanson wrote in the motion.

"In either case, the State of California has no right to request Mr. Miura's rendition from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," the motion states.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Caller Box 10007
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: All Parents or Legal Guardians

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be accepting new applications for Child Care & Development Fund (Child Care Program) starting August 25, 2008 8am-4:00pm to September 8, 2008. You may pick-up an application at The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs Office house # 1347 in Capitol Hill. For more information please call our office at 664-2575 or 664-2573.

REQUIREMENTS:

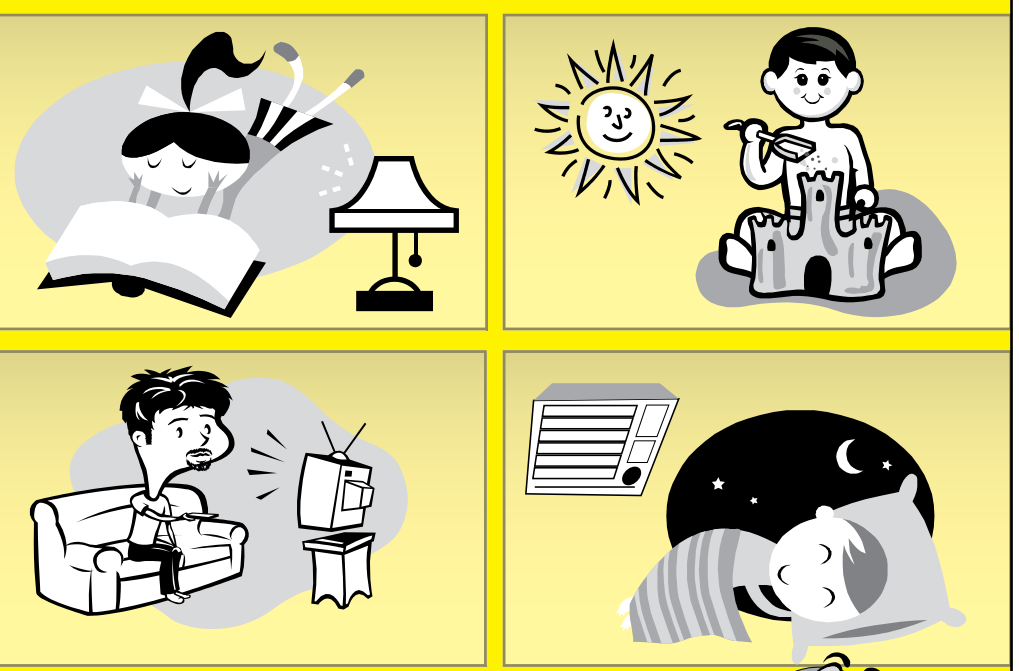
Applicant of Household
1. Check stubs for the most recent two pay periods for each parent or guardian
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or Entry Permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI.
   Provide one of the following documents:
   A. House Rental/Mortgage B. Utility receipt
   C. Telephone receipt D. Entry Permit
5. Employment Verification
6. Child Support Statement/Stub
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit.

Child/Children Household member:
1. A copy of Birth certificate for each child (Child must be a U.S. Citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA).
2. A copy of U.S. Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

Relative Care
1. Application for Child Care Provider
2. Business License
3. W9 Tax Form (if new business)
4. Health Certificate
5. Police Clearance

Center Base Provider:
1. Fee for Daycare Service

THE HEAT IS ON!



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Pulpit and ballot

Pope Benedict XVI has bestowed a key position on an American prelate who was the leader of a faction in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that believes Catholic voters should judge political candidates primarily by their views on abortion. With a presidential election looming, supporters of the separation of church and state can hope that the appointment of Archbishop Raymond Burke of St. Louis as the head of the Vatican's supreme judicial body will defuse the controversy in the church about single-issue voting.

Burke, an icon of conservative Catholics, is best known as the prelate who announced in 2004 that he would deny Holy Communion to Sen. John Kerry, then the Democratic presidential nominee, because he was pro-choice. Burke's insistence that voting for pro-choice policies is the equivalent of procuring an abortion, and thus disqualification for the sacraments, puts him at one pole of a debate within the U.S. hierarchy. Now in Rome, he reiterated this view this week in a magazine interview.

At the other pole are churchmen such as Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles and Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, who has been savaged by conservative Catholics for refusing to bar pro-choice Catholics such as Kerry and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi from taking Communion. Asked how he would respond to Catholic politicians who support legalized abortion, Wuerl replied: "Teach. That is what Jesus did."

Whatever the theological validity of Wuerl's approach, it is consistent with John F. Kennedy's description of the relationship between church and state in his historic address to Protestant ministers in Houston in 1960. Kennedy said: "I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute; where no Catholic prelate would tell the president -- should he be a Catholic -- how to act, and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote."

The debate within the U.S. church over the relationship between abortion and politics extends beyond the issue of Holy Communion for pro-choice politicians. Some bishops believe that Catholic voters should impose an abortion litmus test when they go to the polls; others argue that abortion is only one issue among many, including whether a candidate embraces the church's opposition to capital punishment and racial discrimination.

The struggle among bishops over this question has resulted in a compromise election guide for Catholic voters. It declares: "As Catholics, we are not single-issue voters. ... Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support." That prudent and nuanced view could become especially important if Barack Obama or John McCain chooses a pro-choice Catholic as a running mate. If that occurs, it will be helpful for all concerned if Burke is too busy at the Vatican to enter the fray.

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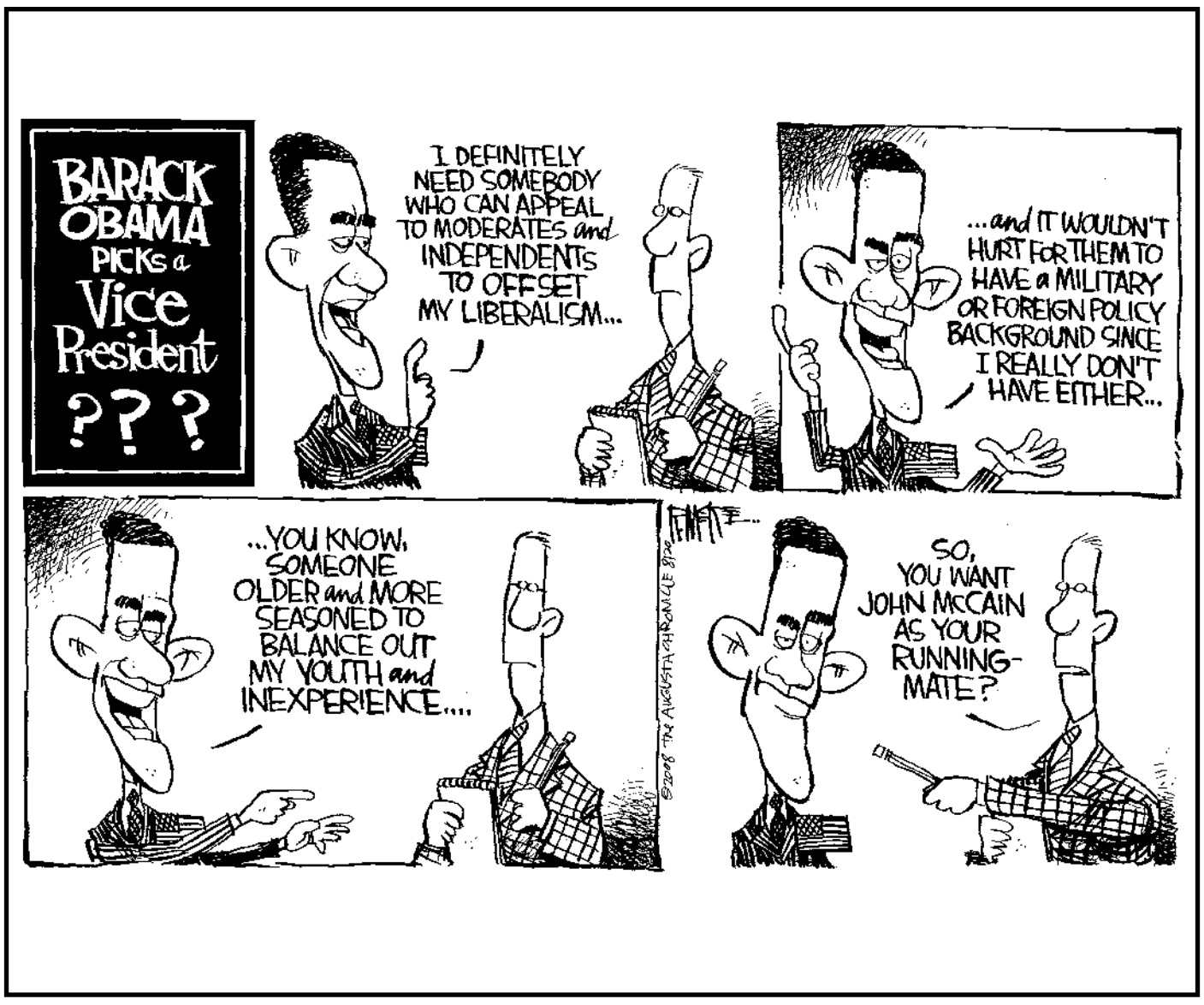
BARACK OBAMA PICKS a Vice President ???
I DEFINITELY NEED SOMEBODY WHO CAN APPEAL TO MODERATES and INDEPENDENTS TO OFFSET MY LIBERALISM...
...and IT WOULDN'T HURT FOR THEM TO HAVE a MILITARY OR FOREIGN POLICY BACKGROUND SINCE I REALLY DON'T HAVE EITHER...
...YOU KNOW, SOMEONE OLDER and MORE SEASONED TO BALANCE OUT MY YOUTH and INEXPERIENCE....
SO, YOU WANT JOHN McCAIN AS YOUR RUNNING-MATE?
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Some authenticity in China's shallow pool

By MEGHAN DAUM
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

China never has been known for its stellar policies on little girls. But last week, its female trouble in Beijing was especially vexing. There were, of course, the rumblings about members of the Chinese women's gymnastics team who appear younger than the International Olympic Committee's age requirement of 16. But that controversy was put on the back burner by the fracas surrounding Lin Miaoke, the 9-year-old who lip-synced "Ode to the Motherland" during the opening ceremony.

The real voice behind the pig-tailed and photogenic Miaoke turned out to be that of 7-year-old Yang Peiyi. A gifted singer with a round face and crooked baby teeth, Peiyi was scheduled to perform at the ceremony until Communist Party authorities deemed her not cute enough for the job. Then, when her replacement's vocal skills were found to be lacking, ceremony organizers decided to have it both ways: Peiyi's voice was played while Miaoke, a veteran of Chinese television commercials, stood before the crowd of 91,000 at the National Stadium and adorably moved her lips—maybe she was singing, but the microphone wasn't turned on.

Ever since the Chinese media broke the story, cries of totalitarian-style foul play, along with copious references to the lip-syncing, Grammy-stripped 1980s duo Milli Vanilli, have been in heavy pundit and blogosphere rotation. Ceremony organizers, already under criticism for digitally enhancing a fireworks display, are being accused of sacrificing Peiyi's self-esteem for the sake of artificial beauty standards and rigid nationalism.

"The reason was for the national interest," Chen Qigang, music director of the opening ceremony, said in an interview. "The child on camera should be flawless in image, internal feeling and expression."

Flawless in image, internal feeling and expression? What an outrage! No wonder Americans are scandalized by this hybrid performance. Over here, this would never happen. Over here, we would choose the beautiful person as a matter of course and then ignore —or not care about—the fact that she couldn't sing as well.

For all those who have suggested that the Miaoke-Peiyi stunt proves the stranglehold of authoritarianism, plenty of others have seen it as a symbol of China's embrace of American-style capitalist values. After all, we made shallowness not just a national pastime but a major export. Thanks largely to our example, the receipts of the global cosmetic surgery industry are thought to exceed the gross domestic product of Somalia fourfold. If China feels uneasy about enlisting a girl with crooked teeth as the face of its children, it's easy to lay blame on the way American pop culture has redefined phony notions of attractiveness as baseline criteria.

Not so fast, I say. China may have played the shallow card, but it played it differently from how we would have. Americans are obsessed with artifice and perfection as it applies to our physical selves, but we're equally obsessed with "authenticity." Sure, we love our teeth-whitening technology and our freakishly flawless celebrities, but we also love to talk about "keeping it real." Even when things are scripted, we like to pretend they're not. Even when an actor or an athlete or a CEO has been honing his craft and building his resume for years, we pretend that he was just discovered, that he emerged fully formed out of a cabbage patch. When it comes to a pop heroine for the masses, as long as she's suitably hot looking, it's almost better if she's not stratospherically talented but more "real." All the easier that way to pretend that we have a chance at that kind of stardom ourselves.

The realm of popular music, of course, has long favored sex appeal over genuine talent. Granted, "American Idol" has introduced a hint of democracy into the corporate labyrinth of the music business (it's only after the show that the winners are reshaped into wax figures), but, with a few exceptions, being really good-looking and just a little bit talented will get you further than being average-looking and extraordinarily talented. How else can you explain Pierce Brosnan butchering his songs in "Mama Mia!" or Janet Jackson's entire career?

Don't misunderstand me. Like most people who don't work for the Chinese government, I think it was lame and creepy, not to mention antithetical to the spirit of the Games, to make Miaoke lip-sync to Peiyi's voice. But for all its wrongheadedness, it revealed an appreciation of genuine talent. At least the best voice got heard.

Yes, China was deceptive. Yes, it belied its shallowness and insecurity by hiding Peiyi from view. But it also honored her in a way that the American reward system is largely incapable of. It recognized Peiyi's talent for its own sake. It showed respect for her voice as an instrument wholly separate from her beauty.

Was looks-discrimination in play? You bet. But so was a discriminating ear.

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles. E-mail her at mdaum@latimescolumnists.com.

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Consulting without a paper trail

By GARRY SOUTH
(C) SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ah, the mysterious and arcane ways of campaign consultants.

Every campaign strategist in a major race tries to stretch the envelope in thinking about how to maximize his or her candidate's strengths and how to capitalize on the weaknesses of the opponent. Not to do so is political malpractice.

But my basic rule of thumb is: Don't put it on paper (or, in this day and age, don't e-mail it, post it or leave it hanging around in a Word document). I have had numerous clients who insisted that I write an elaborate "campaign plan," laying out in exquisite detail the ingenious ways in which I intended to carry them to victory. In every case I have declined to do so, because such documents are just begging to be leaked and twisted.

In the 1998 California governor's race, Republican nominee Dan Lungren's campaign faxed the scripts of its final series of ads to a targeted list of donors in hopes of goosing the fundraising to pay for them. A mailroom clerk—no doubt a Democrat—in one law firm that received the documents sent them to the Gray Davis campaign, which I was managing. This breach allowed us the luxury of knowing in advance what Lungren's final spot mix would be, so we calibrated our own endgame spots accordingly. And we beat him 58 percent to 38 percent.

It's not just about overall strategies, either. Don't put anything in writing you wouldn't want to see on the front page of the newspaper. And don't say or do anything you don't want to watch on YouTube 10 minutes later. Campaign strategy is still best left to internal discussions and conversations that can't be handed to a reporter or a blogger. If oral versions do get out, there is some plausible deniability.

Mark Penn not only used offensive and—especially for a Democrat—politically incorrect descriptions of Barack Obama, he violated common sense. It makes me wonder if his grand-strategy memo wasn't "penned" with the primary purpose of making Penn himself look brilliant after the fact. Welcome to after the fact, Mark.

South is a Democratic strategist and commentator who has managed or played leading roles in campaigns from president to city council over the past 35 years.

The risks and rewards of negative campaigning

By DAN SCHNUR
(C) SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

The temptation is obvious: Polling tells us that voters are more likely to remember a negative message than a positive one. And yet the danger is substantial: Those same voters tend to think less of candidates who deliver a negative message. So the question that every candidate faces is this one: Is the probable backlash worth the potential payoff?

It's clear from Mark Penn's memo that he understood the potential repercussions for his candidate of an all-out attack on his opponent's values and upbringing, so he advocated an emphasis on Hillary Clinton's "American-ness" instead. As much as the campaign didn't consistently follow Penn's advice to target Obama's "weakness," it did occasionally stress that she was born, in Penn's words, in "the middle of America to the middle class in the middle of the last century." Clinton was hardly the first presidential candidate in our history to try to "own `American,' " so the contrast—without the attack—might have been too subtle for many voters.

Most campaigns try to have it both ways—deliver the negative message but protect the candidate from that fallout. (One common technique is for criticism to be offered by a surrogate.) But the best protection against voter backlash is to frame a negative message in the context of policy differences rather than focusing on personal characteristics.

Schnur, national communications director for John McCain's 2000 presidential bid and a veteran of four presidential and three California gubernatorial GOP campaigns, is the director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California.

Politics don't have to be an exercise in destruction

By FRANK LUNTZ
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

There are three ugly truths about electoral politics today. The first, and the ugliest of all, is that elections are much more often about the destruction of the opposition than the building of ideas. But it doesn't have to be that way.

In 1994, I was invited to participate in the shaping of the "Contract With America," designed to win a new majority for Republicans in Congress. My most significant contribution was to insist—successfully—that the document avoid all criticisms of all political opponents. All of my polling and focus groups screamed the same conclusion: Don't go negative.

Not that negative doesn't work, but in this case, I had to deliver unhappy Republicans and independents in order for the GOP to win big. Those unhappy voters, many of whom had voted for Ross Perot in 1992, told me they emphatically needed a reason to vote for the Republicans, not just a reason to vote against the Democrats—otherwise, they'd stay home.

Other GOP consultants insisted on a much more partisan "bang the opponent" strategy. And so my efforts to remove the words "Bill Clinton" and "Democrats" from the Contract required the direct intervention of House Republican leader Newt Gingrich, who sent me—in person—to the Republican National Committee offices to hand-scrub the overt partisanship out of the document.

Which leads me to the second ugly electoral truth: There is nothing more dangerous than a strategist (or strategists) spurned. Just 10 days before the 1994 GOP landslide, I was condemned by two rival pollsters who said publicly that my "bad advice could cost us the majority." They were afraid to attack Gingrich, so I became the target.

And that, in a backhanded way, illustrates the final ugly truth about electoral politics: The campaign is an accurate reflection of the candidate. Those who leaked Mark Penn's memo (and the rest of the Clinton campaign documents) won't attack Hillary Rodham Clinton directly. But just as Gingrich was responsible for the successful fortunes of the Contract in 1994, it's Clinton, not her strategists, who deserves the blame for losing the nomination.

Luntz's political clients have included Rudolph W. Giuliani and Michael R. Bloomberg. He is the author of the just-revised paperback, Words That Work: It's Not What You Say, It's What People Hear.

Breakaway movements as powers' playthings

By TIM JUDAH
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

A few months ago, I traveled to Sukhumi, a balmy, war-wrecked seaside resort that is the capital of Abkhazia. Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as anyone who has followed the news of the past week cannot fail to know, are the two breakaway regions of Georgia. In pelting rain, I crossed the Inguri River from Georgia proper into Abkhazia and noticed that the Georgians had erected a giant sculpture on their side. It was of a pistol pointing at Abkhazia, but the barrel of the gun had been tied in a knot.

Even before the guns started firingAug. 7, this gesture of peace and conciliation was a pretty futile one. Indeed, when I visited, there seemed no hope of a peaceful resolution to these two disputes, nor to two others that have dogged the Caucasus since the early 1990s. These are Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian-controlled enclave that technically is within Azerbaijan, and Transnistria, the breakaway part of Moldova.

The roots of these conflicts run deep, and they are nothing peculiar to the post-Soviet space. The battles may go into remission, or a long "frozen conflict" phase, but even with the best goodwill in the world, they may never be resolved peacefully. Breakaways also tend to become the playthings of the great powers, which find them convenient as proxies in bigger conflicts. This has been the fate of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, which are useful to Russia to destabilize Georgia, and was the U.S.-cast role of Iraqi Kurdistan before the fall of Saddam Hussein.

That just compounds the near-impossibility of finding any resolution. For example, attempts to peacefully solve the Gordian knot that is Cyprus have failed miserably. After decades of U.N. resolutions, plans and referendums, the Greek and Turkish Cypriots seem no closer to reunification on their little island. Croatia, by contrast, solved its problem with the breakaway Serbs in the state of Krajina in 1995 with a massive, U.S.-encouraged armed assault. Virtually all of Krajina's Serbian population of 200,000 fled. Few returned.

Perhaps the Croatian example is what Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili was hoping to emulate when he launched his attack on South Ossetia, which then went so dreadfully wrong for him.

Without Moscow's support, none of the breakaways could survive. Quite apart from the military protection that Russia gives them, they use the ruble, speak more Russian than their own languages and Russia has distributed passports to their people. But Russia is in a curious situation. It had, until now, claimed to support the territorial integrity of states. Late last week, Sergei Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, did a volte face. The world, he said, in a dramatic change of position, "can forget about any talk about Georgia's territorial integrity."

This was surely received as good news in Abkhazia and South Ossetia—but Russia should remember that the breakaways have their own agendas. Ossetian officials whom I met in their capital, Tskhinvali, dream of a union with their kin in North Ossetia, which was left within Russia in the dismantling of the Soviet Union. Whether this would be as part of Russia or as an independent Greater Ossetia remains to be seen. This might seem fanciful now, but who knows what will happen to Russia? Chechnya has, after all, already tried to break away. One day, it probably will try again.

Meanwhile, the Abkhaz just want to be left alone. When the Soviet Union split apart, they were 18 percent of the population of Abkhazia. Now, although very much in control, they are still only 45 percent of its approximately 200,000 people, the rest being Georgians who live in the south, Armenians and some others. Hundreds of thousands of Georgians who fled in the early 1990s would like to come home, but the Abkhaz resist, fearing that once again they would become an insignificant minority in their own homeland.

International law is not much help in sorting out what should happen with breakaways either. Ask an international lawyer, or someone who supports one breakaway case or another, and soon it is clear: Two principles -- self-determination and the right of a nation to its territorial integrity -- stand in conflict. Court rulings on them cannot be enforced anyway. In 1975, the International Court of Justice ruled that the people of the former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, which had been occupied by Morocco in the same year, had the right to self-determination. They are still waiting to exercise that right, still occupied by Morocco.

The situation with Kosovo, which declared independence from Serbia on Feb. 17, is similar to the current one, especially from the point of view of international law. Kosovo was a province within Serbia in the old Yugoslavia, just as Abkhazia and South Ossetia were autonomous parts of Soviet Georgia. So, argues Serbia (with the support of Russia), the "provincial" Kosovars should not have the same right of self-determination as the old Yugoslav or Soviet republics.

But the Kosovars (90 percent of whom are now ethnic Albanians), like the Ossetians and Abkhaz, assert that they have the right to rule themselves. Serbia conquered Kosovo in 1912. But when regions were reshuffled after World War II, no one asked the Kosovo Albanians if they wanted to be part of Serbia and Yugoslavia once again. Clearly, they would have said that they did not.

The U.S. backed the right of the Albanians to self-determination and in 1999 led NATO in a 78-day bombing campaign against Serbia during the Kosovo war.

In Georgia, however, the politics of Kosovo have been turned on their head. The U.S. supports Georgia's territorial integrity while Russia bombs it on behalf of separatists. And Russia is mustering the same arguments in support of Abkhaz separatists as the U.S. did in support of an independent Kosovo.

Some editorialists have argued that Kosovo's independence has set a precedent that Moscow is now following. They seem to me to be obscuring the point. The simple truth is that whatever the rules, the (contested) laws and indeed the rights or wrongs of the issue, might makes right.

Indeed, Bosko Jaksic, a Serbian commentator writing in the daily Politika on Aug. 11, has it exactly to the point. "It is high time we finally understood that the mighty do as they please and the small do as they must." Politicians, he says, "can continue their debate as to whether Kosovo has set a precedent or not, but it turns out that realpolitik has its own rules." That may be a shame but, as recent events have shown, it also is starkly true.

Judah covers the Balkans for the Economist. He is the author of The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia *and the forthcoming* Kosovo: What Everyone Needs to Know.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

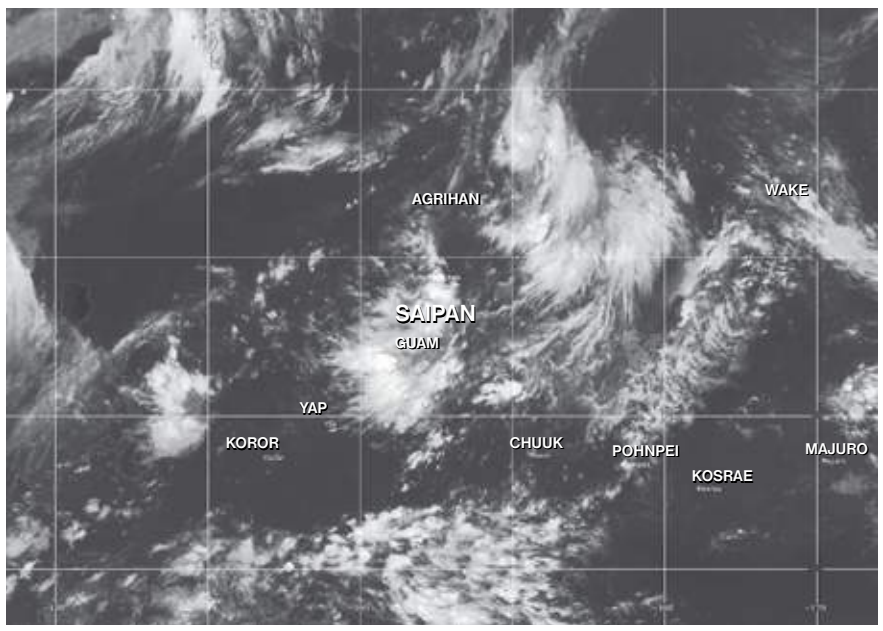
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86	▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼53
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼68
Hong Kong	Rain	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼58
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼66
Manila	Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲57	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼68
Osaka	Showers	▲85	▼70
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼51
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼67
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼65
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼55
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲73	▼57
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼65
Tokyo	Rain	▲81	▼75
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak low-level circulation is centered northwest of Saipan near 18N143E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are across the Mariana Islands from 20N146E to 13N147E to 10N144E to 14N139E back to 20N146E. Low pressure is centered near 27N151E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of a line from 22N148E to 18N153E to 22N160E. Low-level convergence near the equator is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of a line from 2N130E to 4N153E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:18AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
12:55PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:03PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
11:37PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	6:04AM	6:35 PM
Monday	6:04AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	6:04AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	6:04AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:05PM	11:31AM
Sunday		12:34AM
Monday	12:02AM	1:38PM
Tuesday	1:03AM	2:41PM
Wednesday	2:08AM	3:39PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 23, 1999

Proposed betel nut price control
Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan has criticized a plan by the Legislature to set price control on betel nuts on the island, saying the move is tantamount to promoting addiction. He also disagreed with the legislators' claims that chewing betel nut is part of the indigenous culture, noting that people who follow this practice are just hooked on the "addictive properties" of the concoction.

MVA taps Japan chain store to market CNMI
The Marianas Visitors Authority board has approved a joint promotional blitz with Family Mart, one of the biggest stores in Japan, in a move to expand its marketing campaign of the Northern Marianas as a family destination. Campaign materials of the CNMI as an ideal beach destination where families can relax and enjoy will be posted in the 5,300 Family Mart branches all over Japan which has an estimated number of 118 million shoppers.

CPA called to join probe on rising consumer prices
Four months into a probe on the high consumer prices on the island, government agencies tasked to investigate have yet to break ground which could explain the spiraling cost of living in the CNMI. And now, Rep. Melvin Faisao, who initiated the probe, said he would ask the Commonwealth Ports Authority to help shed light whether port fees, wharfage and other charges the agency imposes have contributed to the rising prices of goods being sold on the island.

August 23, 2000

House OKs bill vs domestic violence
Advocates for victims of domestic violence won a major victory yesterday after the House of Representatives cleared legislation aimed at stemming incidents of spousal abuse and family squabble on the islands. SB 12-34, otherwise known as Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act of 2000, is now awaiting signature of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio -- a process that took advocates over four years to champion the rights of the victims.

OPA submits report on marina audit to Senate today
In what appears to be a move that would help pacify controversies surrounding the Outer Cove Marina, the Office of the Public Auditor is submitting a report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate today. Public Auditor Leo LaMotte said OPA has prepared a testimony for the Senate hearing on the issues of Outer Cove Marina scheduled next week. He said the report will be delivered to the Senate today.

Legislation seeks scrutiny of governor's appointees
Appointments made by the governor in exchange for political favors are now a subject of scrutiny by the Legislature as the House of Representatives yesterday passed a measure that will order the Office of Personnel Management to review their qualifications. But the legislation was strongly opposed by some members, particularly from the minority, who considered it not necessary in view of the constitutional provision that allows the Senate to give its advice and consent to executive appointments.

August 23, 2001

Dropout rate in public schools growing
More than 250 students dropped out of school in academic year 1998-1999 due to various reasons that range from expulsion to death. The high student dropout rate in the Northern Marianas has called the attention of the US Congress, prompting the introduction of House Resolution 2262, which directs the US Secretary of Education to study the rate of students dropping out from local public schools.

Froilan appeals $12M ruling
Former Gov. Froilan Tenorio yesterday filed a consolidated appeal on the $12 million judgment imposed by the Superior Court against him in connection with a taxpayer's lawsuit. Tenorio, through the office of counsel G. Patrick Civille, filed a voluminous, book-bound appeal brief before the CNMI Supreme Court, which consolidated three appeals in the complicated taxpayer's lawsuit, filed by Jeanne H. Rayphand on September 13, 1994.

2nd installment from tobacco deal arrives
Failure of the Legislature to appropriate funds received from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement will continue to delay the implementation of anti-cigarette use programs. The Attorney General's Office yesterday disclosed that the CNMI government has received the second installment of remittance from cigarette manufacturers under the settlement accord.

Business

Economy remains stuck in low gear

NEW YORK (AP)—A private sector measure of the economy's health showed the largest drop in a year, and while new jobless claims fell for the second straight week, they remain near the highest levels since 2002. The reports are the latest evidence the languishing American economy remains stuck in low gear.

The New York-based Conference Board said Thursday its monthly forecast of future economic activity fell 0.7 percent in July, far more than the consensus estimate of a 0.2 percent decline by Wall Street economists surveyed by Thomson/IFR.

The last time the index showed a drop this great was last August, when it fell by 1 percent.

The largest drag on the index was the decline in building permits, followed by dropping stock prices, rising unemployment claims, a tightened money supply and falling manufacturers' orders for consumer goods. The index has slipped 0.9 percent for the six months ending in July.

"The economy is stuck somewhere between sluggish growth and recession," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wachovia Corp. "We're in economic purgatory."

Oil jumps $5 on US-Russia tensions and sliding dollar

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices shot up more than $5 a barrel Thursday, rising to the highest level in over two weeks as escalating tensions with Russia stoked fears of supply disruptions to the West.

Crude's rally mimicked the wild price swings seen last month and at least temporarily halted oil's slide back toward $100 a barrel. A weaker U.S. dollar and worries about tightening output from OPEC countries are also supporting prices.

After days of brushing off geopolitical flare-ups and a tropical storm, oil spiked above $122 a barrel as traders became rattled over increasingly hostile Russian rhetoric toward a U.S.-Poland deal to install a missile defense system in Eastern Europe—a move Moscow views as a threat. The continued presence of Russian troops in Georgia—a key conduit for Western-bound oil shipments—injected even more bullish sentiment into a market that had appeared to be losing momentum on the idea that high energy prices were curbing Oil watchers said the market's sudden reaction to the standoff reflects a growing acknowledgment of Russia's bear-like influence over world energy supplies. "People are finally realizing that this Russian situation has the potential to be bad for a very long time," said Addison Armstrong, director of market research at Tradition Energy in Stamford, Conn. "The Russians have shown evidence that they're willing to cut off energy supplies to advance their aims. There is concern that they are now going to be much more assertive in that area."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oracle's Ellison grabs top spot on best-paid list
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Oracle Corp. founder Larry Ellison, a longtime fixture on the list of the world's richest people, is now ensconced atop The Associated Press' rankings of the top-paid chief executives in the United States. Never shy about flaunting his estimated $25 billion fortune, Ellison established himself as the best-paid CEO among major U.S. companies by persuading Oracle to award him a fiscal 2008 pay package valued at $84.6 million under the AP's calculations. The total compensation catapulted Ellison to the top of the AP's annual analysis of CEO pay. With a pay package valued at $83.1 million, Merrill Lynch CEO John Thain held that distinction in June when the AP released its 2008 analysis of executive compensation at more than 400 large companies.

Stocks end mixed on rising oil, financial worries
NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street finished mixed Thursday after investors largely shrugged off a jump in oil prices and focused instead on a bullish call on Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. that eased worries about the financial sector. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 12.78, or 0.11 percent, to 11,430.21. It was the second straight session of moderate gains for the blue chips after heavy losses the first two days of the week. Broader stock indicators ended mixed Thursday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 3.18, or 0.25 percent, to 1,277.72, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 8.70, or 0.36 percent, to 2,380.38.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Crews rescue 2 teens trapped in Wash. snow field

SNOQUALMIE PASS, Wash. (AP)—An ice cave collapsed on two teenage boys Thursday, trapping them for hours until rescuers with chain saws managed to cut through large chunks of compact snow and ice to free them. The Seattle teens, 17-year-old Alec Corbett and 14-year-old Allesandro Gelmini, were both suffering from hypothermia, King County sheriff's spokesman Sgt. John Urquhart said. Gelmini, rescued first, also suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries, Urquhart said. Corbett's injuries were being evaluated Thursday evening. A Navy helicopter was called to fly the boys to a hospital in Seattle.

Texas man gets life for child sex club conviction

TYLER, Texas (AP)—A Texas jury has sentenced a 41-year-old auto body shop worker to life in prison after convicting him of grooming children as young as 5 to perform in sex shows at a small-town swingers club. Jurors took about 15 minutes Thursday to decide on the sentence for Patrick "Booger Red" Kelly. Kelly showed no emotion after the verdict was read earlier Thursday. Jurors found him guilty of engaging in organized criminal activity. Prosecutors say Kelly was a member of the so-called Mineola Swinger's Club and helped set up a "kindergarten" where young children were drugged and taught to dance provocatively. Kelly has maintained he is innocent.

Officials: Threat, powder sent to McCain office

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—Authorities say a threatening letter containing an unidentified white powder was sent to a John McCain campaign office in the Denver suburb of Centennial. A hazardous materials team was trying to determine if it is harmful. Andy Lyon of Parker South Metro Fire Rescue Authority said a worker at the office discovered the power after opening the letter Thursday afternoon. Lyon said no injuries have been reported but some people may have gone to hospitals on their own. Postal Inspector Jo Jan Henderson said agents from her office are the scene.

Obama says he's decided on VP choice

EMPORIA, Va (AP)—Barack Obama said Thursday he's chosen his running mate, but coyly kept all the details to himself as he campaigned with one leading contender and planned a major rally to present the Democratic ticket Saturday in Illinois.

Obama refused to say whether he'd notified his pick or when exactly he would send cell phones buzzing with the answer delivered via text message. He seemed to relish the frustrations of scores of reporters following him this week in anticipation of the announcement.

"Wouldn't you like to know?" he said with a grin when asked by an Associated Press reporter when the text would be sent.

"I've made the selection, that's all you're gonna get," Obama said as he visited a store selling roasted Virginia peanuts as nonchalantly as any other day campaigning in a battleground state.

Obama planned to appear with his pick Saturday at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Ill., where he launched his presidential campaign in February 2007.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. speaks at a town hall meeting, Thursday, Aug. 22,2008, at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake, Va.

■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—John McCain may have created his own housing crisis. Hours after a report that the Republican presidential nominee-in-waiting didn't know how many homes he and his multimillionaire wife own, Democratic rival Barack Obama launched a national TV ad and a series of campaign stops aimed at portraying McCain as wealthy and out of touch.

With the economy ranking as the top issue in the race, Obama sought to turn McCain's gaffe into one of those symbolic moments that stick in voters' minds.

Think John Kerry sailboarding or the first President Bush wowed by a grocery store checkout scanner, Michael Dukakis riding in a tank or Gerald Ford eating a tamale with the husk still on.

"I think—I'll have my staff get to you," McCain told Politico when asked Wednesday how many houses he owns. "It's condominiums where—I'll have them get to you."

Later, the McCain campaign told Politico that McCain and his wife, Cindy, have at least four in three states—Arizona, California and Virginia. Newsweek recently estimated the two owned at least seven properties.

■ ■ ■

The Illinois senator was widely thought to be considering Sens. Joe Biden of Delaware and Evan Bayh of Indiana along with Govs. Tim Kaine of Virginia and Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas. None of them gave anything away—at least not in words.

Immigration agency scraps self-deportation program

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—The federal government will scrap a program for illegal immigrants to turn themselves in for deportation after only eight people volunteered during a nearly three-week trial, an official said Thursday.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offered the pilot program in five cities, giving illegal immigrants facing court orders to leave the country 90 days to plan their departure and coordinate travel with relatives instead of facing the prospect of being arrested, detained and deported.

ICE will end its "Scheduled Departure" program when the trial period concludes Friday, Jim Hayes, acting director of ICE's detention and removal operations, told The Associated Press.

"The bottom line is it is not effective," Hayes said. "Quite frankly, I think this proves the only method that works is enforcement."

The initiative drew skepticism, even ridicule, from many immigration activists who have criticized ICE's increasing raids on homes and businesses.

Jurors in Idaho murder case cry at graphic videos

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Jurors cringed, cried and some desperately looked away as they were shown a series of deeply disturbing and graphic videos taken by a convicted child killer as he tortured, sexually abused and nearly killed a 9-year-old boy.

Joseph Edward Duncan III, acting as his own attorney, had argued against playing the videos, saying it would turn jurors "into my victims" as they decide whether he should be executed.

Duncan kidnapped the boy, Dylan Groene, and his sister, Shasta, in May 2005 after murdering their older brother, their mother and her fiance in the Coeur d'Alene area. The two young children were taken deep into the Lolo National Forest, where they endured weeks of horrendous abuse at Duncan's hands

Duncan ultimately shot the boy point-blank in the head while his sister, then 8, watched. He was arrested after returning to Coeur d'Alene, where a waitress recognized Shasta as the two ate at a Denny's restaurant.

The videos and photos taken at the cabin show Duncan forcing the boy to perform a sex act, whipping him with a belt and hanging him with a wire noose until the boy passed out.

Duncan covered his face as parts of the video were shown, and jurors frequently shot him looks. Two of Duncan's standby attorneys also avoided looking at the screen. Duncan, a convicted pedophile originally from Tacoma, Wash., has pleaded guilty to federal and state counts including murder.

AP

A group of kids use a rubber boat to explore their flooded Merritt Island, Fla. neighborhood Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008 after Tropical Storm Fay dumped several inches of rain in the area.

Gators among those fleeing Fay's Florida deluge

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP)—As if a fourth straight day of rain from Tropical Storm Fay wasn't enough, weary residents are now dealing with quintessentially Floridian fallout: alligators, snakes and other critters driven from their swampy lairs into flooded streets, backyards and doorsteps

National Guardsman Steve Johnson was wading through hip-deep water Wednesday night when his flashlight revealed an alligator drifting through a neighborhood of flooded mobile homes. "I said, 'The heck is that?' and there was an alligator floating by," Johnson said. "I took my flashlight and was like, 'You've got to be kidding me, a big old alligator swimming around here.'"

The erratic and stubborn storm has dumped more than 2 feet of rain along parts of Florida's low-lying central Atlantic coast this week. The system continued its slow, wet march Thursday by curving back from the ocean to hit the state for a third time.

Alligators live in all 67 Florida counties, and state officials say they receive more than 18,000 alligator-related complaints each year. But the floodwaters heighten the risk of an encounter with people because the creatures search for a safe place to wait out the storm.

"They are trying to find dry land, someplace to hide," said officer Lenny Salberg of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

World

US, Iraq close in on deal for pullout of US troops

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq and the U.S. pushed close to a deal Thursday setting a course for American combat troops to pull out of major Iraqi cities by next June, with a broader withdrawal from the long and costly war by 2011. Subject to final approval by the top Iraqi leadership, the exit date for U.S. troops would be December 2011, although the Americans insist on linking that target to additional security and political progress.

President Bush has long resisted a timetable for pulling out, even under heavy pressure from a nation distressed by American deaths and discouraged by the length of the war that began in 2003. But that has softened in recent weeks.

The timing has major political importance in both Iraq and the United States.

The two contenders to replace Bush as commander in chief, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama, spar almost daily over the future course of the war.

Obama wants all U.S. combat forces out of Iraq within 16 months of his taking office, saying they are needed more urgently in Afghanistan. McCain says recent security improvements in Iraq show that decisions on the timing of further pullouts should be determined by circumstances on the ground rather than by prearranged timetables—a position the White House has vigorously held until recently.

WORLD BRIEFS

61-year-old woman gives birth in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—A 61-year-old Japanese woman gave birth to her own grandchild, using an egg donated by her daughter, a clinic said Thursday. Surrogate births are extremely rare in Japan and banned by industry groups, but they are not illegal. The Suwa Maternity Clinic in Nagano, northwest of Tokyo, refused to provide information such as the date of the birth or gender of the baby. News reports said the baby was born last year. The clinic said it performed the procedure because the woman's daughter has no uterus, but didn't give details on why she had that condition. The surrogate mother used a fertilized egg donated by her daughter.

State media: 5.9-magnitude quake kills 1 in China

BEIJING (AP)—A 5.9-magnitude earthquake jolted southern China near the border with Myanmar Thursday, killing a woman—one day after another quake damaged homes in the same area, state media reported. Tens of thousands of people spent the night in a square and on playgrounds following the quake, which destroyed many houses in Yinjiang county, where the quake was centered, Xinhua said. County head E Tun only identified the woman killed as being in her thirties, according to Xinhua. Other casualties are still being counted.

30 militants die in Afghan battle near ambush site

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S.-led coalition said Thursday it had killed more than 30 insurgents in a battle in eastern Afghanistan, fighters an Afghan governor said were responsible for an attack that killed 10 French troops this week. Officials announced the deaths of six NATO soldiers in two attacks. Lutfullah Mashal, the governor of Laghman province, said coalition bombs targeted fighters on the border of Laghman and Kabul provinces. He said the insurgents were fleeing the valley where Monday's attack on the French took place.

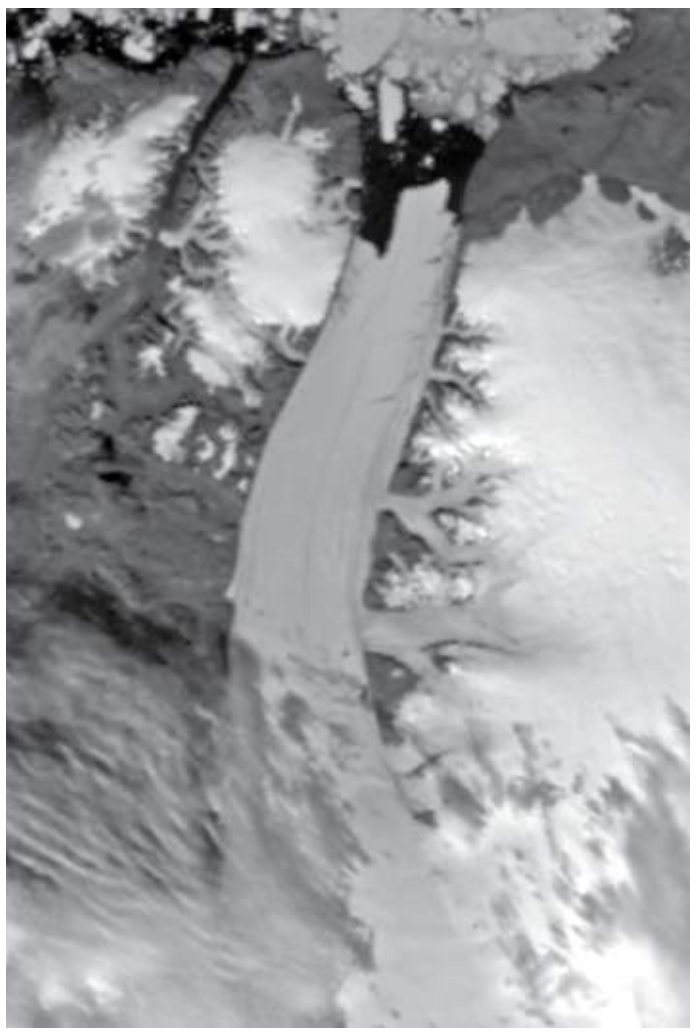
Pirates seize 3 ships off Somalia in 1 day

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Armed pirates hijacked three ships off the coast of Somalia in a series of attacks Thursday, an international maritime body said, as it urged the U.N. to restore law and order to the notorious African waters. Three hijackings in a day "is unheard of," said Noel Choong, the head of the Kuala Lumpur-based piracy center of the International Maritime Bureau. The attacks came two days after the seizure of a Malaysian palm oil tanker with 39 crew in the same area and raised to seven the number of ships hijacked in the Gulf of Aden since July 20.

Australian officials to euthanize baby whale

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Wildlife officials moved ahead Friday with plans to euthanize an injured and abandoned baby humpback whale that has been trying to suckle boats in the waters off Sydney. The decision was made Thursday after veterinarians and marine researchers examined the whale, determining that its condition had deteriorated to the point that euthanizing it was the most humane thing to do. But officials later were unable to find the whale in the dark waters of Pittwater Inlet. Early Friday, the whale was located, and officials moved ahead with plans to sedate it before administering a fatal dose of drugs later in the day.

Suicide bombers kill 59 at Pakistani arms factory



AP

This image provided by the Byrd Polar Research Center, Columbus, Ohio, taken July 25, 2008, shows a growing giant crack and an 11-square-mile chunk of ice hemorrhaging off a prominent glacier in northern Greenland.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Suicide bombers killed 59 people at a huge arms factory Thursday in one of Pakistan's deadliest terror attacks, adding to turmoil from political squabbling that is threatening to tear apart the ruling coalition now that Pervez Musharraf has quit as president.

The twin bombings, which also wounded 70 people, hit one of Pakistan's most sensitive and heavily guarded military installations, underlining the threat posed by Islamic militants to the Muslim world's only nuclear-armed nation as well as its war-ravaged neighbor, Afghanistan.

Just hours before the blasts, which were claimed by the Pakistani Taliban as a response to army attacks on militants, a key party in the government coalition threatened to quit in a power struggle that has dismayed many Pakistanis and the country's Western backers.

Workers were streaming through two gates of the sprawling factory complex in Wah, 20 miles west of Islamabad, during a shift change about 2 p.m. when the bombers attacked outside the walls. The force of the explosions knocked many people to the ground and sprayed others with shrapnel.

"I looked back and saw the limbs of my colleagues flying through the air," said Shahid Bhatti, 29, his clothes soaked in blood.

New cracks in Greenland ice

WASHINGTON (AP)—In northern Greenland, a part of the Arctic that had seemed immune from global warming, new satellite images show a growing giant crack and an 11-square-mile chunk of ice hemorrhaging off a major glacier, scientists said Thursday.

And that's led the university professor who spotted the wounds in the massive Petermann glacier to predict disintegration of a major portion of the Northern Hemisphere's largest floating glacier within the year. If it does worsen and other northern Greenland glaciers melt faster, then it could speed up sea level rise, already increasing because of melt in southern Greenland.

The crack is 7 miles long and about half a mile wide. It is about half the width of the 500 square mile floating part of the glacier. Other smaller fractures can be seen in images of the ice tongue, a long narrow sliver of the glacier

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Maharlika – Pinoy News

'Crisis stretching OFWs' ability to send money'

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
WWW.OFWJOURNALISM.NET

MANILA–A US-generated financial crisis is testing overseas Filipino workers' ability to send cash home, an economist said using government data on remittances.

"If OFWs persist in sending more money, it will not be physically sustainable for them," Alvin Ang told the OFW Journalism Consortium before monetary authorities reported on Aug. 15 that OFWs sent home a record $1.5 billion in June.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas linked the 30-percent year-on-year remittance growth rate to an increase in the number of Filipinos who left for work abroad from January to June.

The BSP cited government recorded more than 600,000 Filipino workers left the country using official channels during the first six months of the year. That figure just above to the total number of oversea contract workers deployed in 1991: 615,019.

While acknowledging the increasing rate of remittance from these Filipinos, Ang warns that remittance flows especially from the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are entering a "plateau."

Using year-on-year total formally-sent cash remittances on a six-month period ending May, Ang said if the growth rate of remittances is below and up to 3 percent, "that for me is a plateau."

He cited as example cash from land-based OFWs in the US grew by less than a percent (0.66) to $2.462 billion in the first six months ending May as against the same six-month period in 2007 of $2.446 billion.

Likewise, Ang noted money credited as coming from land-based OFWs in Saudi Arabia in the five-month period ending May this year hit $528.013 million. That amount represents a 1.12 percent growth rate from the $522.156 million sent from Saudi Arabia in the first five months of last year.

While remittances from land-based Filipino workers in these major host countries still rose, Ang said growth rates year-on-year are "not significant increases".

Borderline

Even the Philippines's total monthly remittances are either touching plateau levels or are experiencing negative growth rates, according to Ang.

The country received $1.396 billion in December 2007 but the following month's remittance declined by 9.52 percent to $1.264 billion and to $1.258 billion in February this year.

Ang said the declining rates may be due to several factors including US inflation and higher oil and commodities prices.

He, however, said the effects on remittances from these economic aberrations are not immediate.

"Give it one to one-and-a-half years before we really feel the full effect."

He noted that cash from OFWs in countries other than the US and Saudi Arabia have been contributing more to the growth rates and helping arrest the decline in cash flow.

Land-based OFWs in Singapore, for example, sent home $0.175 billion during the first five months, or an 81.98-percent growth year-on-year from $95.985 million in the same period last year.

Filipinos in Canada sent $0.46 billion during the first six months, achieving a year-on-year 70.65-percent growth rate.

Filipinos in Europe, such as Italy (22.11 percent growth rate), Germany (27.22 percent), and the United Kingdom (19.01), also saw their year-on-year five month remittance volumes grow.

Returns

Ang said his prognosis on the Philippines's plateau-level remittance growth rates recalls a basic economic concept: the law of diminishing returns.

There will come a time that remittances from OFWs, whether it's the overall total or the per-continent or per-country totals, "will go down somewhere," he said.

Given the weakening dollar, World Bank economists Dilip Ratha and Sanket Mohapatra said rising inflation rate and oil and commodities prices "further (eroded) the purchasing power of remittances" received by Mexico, India, and the Philippines.

In particular, Ratha and Mohapatra noted that while Philippine remittances increased by nearly 50 percent between 2004 and 2007, "[a] large part of this increase has been simply to preserve the purchasing power of recipients since the Philippine peso appreciated by 33 percent against the US dollar."

OFW remittance to the Philippines hit roughly $14.5 billion last year. It was at $8.5 billion in 2004.

After accounting for the peso's appreciation and domestic inflation, Philippine remittances increased by only 3 percent [in the three years beginning 2004]," Ratha and Mohaptra wrote in Remittances Dispatch.

Monthly remittance data show downward pattern

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
WWW.OFWJOURNALISM.NET

MANILA–Month-on-month remittance data reflecting downward spikes may reveal the impact of world oil and commodities prices adjustment to economies like the Philippines that are dependent on cash flow from abroad, economist Alvin Ang said.

"While it is too early to see the effect, we should be on guard of the monthly growth rates of remittance inflows and understand the 'Philippine cycle' of these flows," the University of Santo Tomas economics professor said.

The OFW Journalism Consortium spoke to Ang before the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas revealed on August 15 a record high remittance in June of $1.5 billion.

Ang admits that total cash remittance volumes increased, both on a year-on-year level and on a cumulative cash remittance growth rate.

However, Ang said, these growth rates should take into account the start of the US credit crunch, the surge in world oil and food prices, and domestic inflation.

Monitoring cash remittance growth rates in this context is important in determining the level of migrant workers' propensity to remit back home, Ang said.

He explained month-on-month cumulative remittance data could also help identify the intensity of the impact of world price changes on overseas Filipino workers' (OFW) money flow.

For example, the BSP cash remittance data between

January 2004 to May 2008 that January, February, April, July, September, and November are low-growth months for cash remittance inflows.

Cash remittances' growth rates usually rebound during the months of March (for graduation), May, August, October (due to tuition and fees payments by students of OFWs), and December (for Christmas).

But when the food crisis peaked in March, remittances growth rate was pegged at 13.44 percent, the lowest March figure over a five-year period.

And when Philippine inflation reached 9.5 percent last May, that month's remittance growth rate was 1.39 percent.

Ang added Philippine monetary officials should worry if there will be more negative month-on-month cash remittances growth rates this year despite continued increases of total remittance volumes.

The Philippines had seven months of negative month-on-month cash remittance growth rates for both 2006 and 2007, compared to six months of negative growth rates in the years 2005 and 2004.

Three of the first five months of the year saw negative month-on-month growth rates for remittances.

Last year, groups of OFWs circulated electronic mails citing that a strong peso has prompted many of their colleagues to send additional money to maintain the purchasing power of their families in the Philippines.

Money from an estimated 8.7 million Filipinos working or living temporarily or permanently in 193 countries have been credited as keeping consumer spending high or, at best, constant.

However, Ang said that a high-inflation environment and weak dollar cast doubts on the "physical sustainability" of OFWs to send money to the Philippines.

25TH ANNIVERSARY
Cancer-stricken former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, left, sprinkles holy water on the tomb of former Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. at Manila's Memorial Park on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008. Aquino and several opposition leaders held simple rites to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the death of her husband Ninoy, who was gunned down at the Manila airport in 1983, sparking a nonviolent army-backed public uprising that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

LABOR FRONT

Employer-employee disputes

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Can an alien worker or employer report employment disputes orally to the Department of Labor?

A: According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, a system of informal reporting of disputes is intended to facilitate early resolution of the potential dispute and to maintain the employment relationship. The Regulations state that disputes may be reported orally, by telephone or in person, or in writing to the Labor Enforcement Section.

■ ■ ■

Q: When should an alien worker report to Labor about a potential dispute with his or her employer?

A: The Regulations state that in the event that an employer fails to make full and complete payment of bi-weekly wages on two successive occasions, or if a conflict arises between the foreign national worker and the employer about working conditions or the implementation of the terms of the approved employment contract, the worker shall report the potential dispute to Labor promptly.

■ ■ ■

Q: What should an employer do if an employee fails to report for work for five successive days without notice or medical reason?

A: In a case when an alien worker fails to report for work for five successive workdays without notice to the employer of medical or other reasons for absence, or if a conflict arises between the employer and the worker about working conditions or the implementation of the terms of the approved employment contract, the Regulations require that the employer shall report the potential dispute to Labor promptly. This provision does not limit the right of an employer to terminate an approved employment contract for cause pursuant to the terms of the contract.

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Amnesty warns RP against arming militias

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ILIGAN, Philippines (AP)—Local political leaders in the southern Philippines have started arming civilians to protect against Muslim rebel attacks, a dangerous development that could further escalate violence, Amnesty International said Friday.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been displaced and dozens killed in recent attacks blamed on Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels, prompting the government to scrap a preliminary peace accord calling for an expanded autonomy for minority Muslims.

The rebels, who have been fighting for Muslim self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south for decades, said they regretted the violence but rejected government demands to hand over two commanders blamed for recent civilian deaths.

The military has stepped up pressure on the rebels by launching limited air strikes and artillery assaults on suspected guerrilla hideouts in Maguindanao province, on southern Mindanao island.

Human rights group Amnesty International said the rebels "should be held to account" for serious violations of international law, but also warned that the deployment of civilian militias on the government side "can set off a chain of reprisals and only increase the danger facing civilians."

The Philippine military has a decades-old policy of arming civilian militias to reinforce security forces and protect local communities.

Following Monday's rebel attack on five coastal towns in Lanao del Norte province in which guerrillas shot or hacked to death 37 people, Amnesty said that local politicians in nearby North Cotabato province supplied guns and ammunition to the civilians after security officials reportedly refused.

Similar reports were received from other predominantly Christian cities in the south, it said.

National police chief Avelino Razon confirmed in Manila on Wednesday that police were set to recruit and arm more civilian volunteers. He said 1,000 shotguns will be shipped to the south and an additional 12,000 weapons were being readied.

In the 1970s, notorious Christian militias known as "Ilagas" or "rats" were blamed for killing Muslim civilians and burning mosques. The Muslims had also formed "Barracuda" vigilantes who attacked Christians.

"Many people in Mindanao are terrified of a return to a period when armed Muslim insurgents and Christian vigilante `Ilaga' groups attacked civilians with impunity," Amnesty said.

Just weeks ago, a peace deal to end the decades-long insurgency had seemed within reach after government and rebel negotiators initialed an agreement on an expanded Muslim autonomous region.

But Christian politicians in areas that would be affected challenged the deal in the Supreme Court, triggering the attacks by the rebels.

Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that "circumstances have changed" after the recent attacks and the government will no longer sign the agreement.

Rebel negotiator Iqbal said resuming talks was "like opening a can of worms." He hinted that the impasse could set off an escalation in fighting.

RP troops hunt for Muslim rebel commanders behind attacks

ILIGAN, Philippines (AP)—A Muslim rebel organization rejected demands by the Philippine government Thursday for the surrender of two renegade commanders blamed for attacks that killed dozens of people, setting the stage for a possible escalation in fighting.

Government Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front should hand over Abdullah Macapaar, also known as Bravo, and Ameril Umbra Kato.

Bravo allegedly led a raid Monday on five towns that left 37 people shot or hacked to death. Kato led the occupation of predominantly Christian villages in the south last week.

In a radio interview, Dureza said the government cannot sign a peace agreement with "an organization that doesn't have control over its commanders" and called on front Chairman Murad Ebrahim to surrender the two commanders to the government.

"We should expect him to surrender and bring to government the two commanders who are clearly responsible for these acts," Dureza told DZMM radio. "Nothing short of that is acceptable to government."

But Mohagher Iqbal, the rebels' chief peace negotiator, refused. "We are a revolutionary organization. We will never turn over our men to them. We have our own internal justice (system)," he told reporters by telephone.

Army Lt. Gen. Cardozo Luna, who is helping supervise the hunt for the two commanders, said up to 6,000 soldiers and police were involved in an offensive against an estimated 3,000-member rebel force operating in Lanao del Norte and North Cotabato provinces in the southern Philippines.

He told The Associated Press the army wanted to "solve the problem as soon as possible and ease the agony of the people."

Air and ground strikes against Kato's group that began Wednesday in parts of Maguindanao province have killed four rebels and wounded eight others, Col. Marlou Salazar, an army commander in the area, said in a telephone interview, citing intelligence reports.

Salazar and two other military officials said at least one soldier had died and 10 were wounded in the fighting in Maguindanao and in North Cotabato province's Midsayap township.

Earlier in the day, military officials paraded 31 rebels allegedly belonging to Bravo's unit who surrendered after refusing orders to kill civilians. Their leader, Alvin Cuntu, described Monday's attacks as a "brutal act against innocent civilians."

Lawrence Cruz, the mayor of Iligan, the capital of Lanao del Norte, called their surrender a "very brave act."

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu said they were checking if those who surrendered were "authentic" guerrillas.

Just weeks ago, a peace deal to end the decades-long insurgency in the troubled south had seemed within reach after government and rebel negotiators initialed an agreement on an expanded Muslim autonomous region.

RP marine captain and Abu Sayyaf gunman shot dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A military official says al-Qaida-linked gunmen have fatally shot a Philippine marine captain on southern Jolo island.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, the marine chief, says Capt. Adbuhari Sulani was traveling alone on a motorcycle Tuesday when Abu Sayyaf rebels ambushed him in Patikul township. He says Sulani was wearing civilian clothes at the time of the attack.

Dolorfino says Sulani was able to kill one of his attackers and wound another before he died.

He said Wednesday that the wounded rebel has been arrested.

On Saturday, militants shot dead two marines whose motorcycle broke down in Jolo's Panamao township.

The United States and the European Union list the Abu Sayyaf as a terror group.

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Maharlika – Pinoystyle

Biliran lass named 'Pinoy Idol'

By MARINEL CRUZ
INQUIRER.NET, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Gretchen Espina, a 20-year-old Biliran native, bested two other hopefuls and was declared winner of GMA-7 and Fremantle Media's "Pinoy Idol" Sunday at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

Espina, who gave impressive renditions of "For Your Eyes Only," "Stand Up for Love" and "Ngayon" during the Final Performance Night Saturday, will receive P1 million, a condominium unit, a brand new car (Mitsubishi Lancer LXi 2008 series), a P1-million recording contract with Sony BMG Music Philippines, and a television contract with GMA 7 worth P500,000.

Her closest competitor was Jayann Bautista, 24, a Pampanga native and a former Viva recording artist. Ram Chaves, 25, of Cagayan de Oro, placed third.

"Show biz can be really nasty. I'm ready for it. It's not any different from politics," said Espina, daughter of Biliran governor Rogelio J. Espina.

Espina, a former member of the UP Singing Ambassadors, said she would share her winnings with her co-finalists. "I will share a portion of my winnings to the two other finalists. Napagkasunduan na namin ito," Espina on Sunday told the Inquirer shortly after the Final Results Show at the SMX Convention Center of the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Bautista and Chaves will receive P100,000 from Espina.

On Saturday, "Idol" fans started queuing at the 8,000-seater SMX Convention Center as early as noontime to watch Bautista, Chaves and Espina compete for the last time.

The opening number featured the Final 3 along with contestants Daryl Celis, Kid Camaya, Warren Antig, Penelope, Toffer Rei, Sue Ellen, Robby Navarro, Mae Flores, and Jeni Rawolle singing "Salamat Musika" with the UP Chorus Chorale and the Magnificat.

Videos of the finalists' homecoming were shown prior to each of their performances. Bautista represented Central Luzon. Espina, Eastern Visayas and Chaves, Mindanao Region.

The "Idol" hopefuls competed in three rounds—the first set of songs was picked for them by the three judges, the second, by their favorite mentors and the third, by themselves.

Bautista first sang "I'll Never Love This Way Again," a song chosen for her by judge Tracy. Alcasid picked "Bridge Over Troubled Water" for finalist Chaves, while Magdangal selected "For Your Eyes Only" for Espina.

The second round featured Bautista singing "You'll Never Walk Alone," a song picked for her by mentor Regine Velasquez. Chaves performed "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing" and Espina, "Stand Up For Love" for their favorite mentor Jaya Ramsey.

For the third round, Espina chose to sing the Basil Valdez original "Ngayon" with the UP Chorus Chorale. Chaves did his version of Florante's "Handog" alongside guitarists Noel Mendez and Tats Suzara.

Bautista concluded the program with her interpretation of the Tina Turner song "Proud Mary" with the Speed Dancers.

The finalists also joined Valdez in a production number that featured his hit song "Let The Pain Remain." Near the end of the hour-long show, they sang the inspirational song "Go The Distance" with Velasquez. Local bands South Border, Itchyworms, Freestyle and Cushe showed support by singing their own tunes. While on a break, hosts Gutierrez, Karylle and Ramos asked the judges on how they thought the finalists fared. Alcasid replied on the positive: "They're much better now, unlike last week when they all sang so blandly, as if they're not in competition. Tracy, too, was impressed. He commented: "Hindi sila magaling... dahil saksakan sila ng galing."

When the show got back on air and it was time for the judges to say their parting shots, Tracy commented that Bautista had a "powerful voice." He added, however, that it was obvious in her first two songs that the "Idol" hopeful had been nervous. She failed to hit the right notes, he added. "But with your third song, you proved you're not only a good singer but also a good performer," Tracy declared.

Magdangal said Chaves was "suave" in all of his performances, but added that Tracy had expected more from the rock singer. "In general, you did a very good job," she concluded.

According to Alcasid, Espina's performance was that of a "real champion." He said Tracy regarded it as a "revelation." "Last week, I was disappointed with your performance because I felt you were too emotional. But tonight, you're a champion. You deserve to be where you are now," the judge said.

Not the best of Dolphy and Vic

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"Dobol Trobol" is not exactly the best work of Dolphy and Vic Sotto but their combined charisma is the film's redeeming factor. Fritz Infante stole the show with his sassy portrayal of a sosi chef

The scene of Pidol and Bossing with their ladyloves Zsa Zsa Padilla and Pia Guanio was quite engaging. They should have been their leading ladies so they could crack personal jokes and wacky ad-libs

It would have been more heartwarming if the Comedy King and Box-office King did something like "Bucket List." Their much-awaited team-up deserves more than just sitcom stuff.

Big fuss

Valerie Concepcion wonders why Jenny Miller is making a big fuss about an innocent remark she made at the Belo ball. "Na-misinterpret niya lang ako when I said na the seat beside me is reserved for Angel Locsin," Val explained. "Na-offend daw si Jen na di ko siya pinaupo. So nag-sorry ako kahit wala naman akong kasalanan. Nagulat ako na biglang may issue na siya against me kahit I meant no harm."

Heroes

The Olympics has created new idols. In this game called life, we all have our own heroes. Even celebs who are used to being worshipped have people they look up to. Here's to our mentors who protect us from our tormentors!

DIETHER OCAMPO: "The less fortunate kids are my li'l champs. They remind me to keep my feet on the ground and that dreams are made to come true."

MARIEL RODRIGUEZ: "Tito Boy Abunda is my hero. Whenever I'm in doubt, I call him up. By the end of our talk, all my doubts are gone and all my questions are answered."

JED MADELA: "The late Bella Tan was like a second mom to me. She went out of her way and fought really hard to put me where I am now. She saw past the superficial requirements of show biz and believed in me as a person

DIANA ZUBIRI: "Jojo Gabinete is my angel who gives me strength and hope. I'm still very much around in show biz because of him."

Lucrecia Kasilag, grand dame of RP music, dies at 90

MANILA, Philippines (Philippine Daily Inquirer)—Distinguished composer, music educator, former president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and National Artist for Music Lucrecia Kasilag passed away Saturday night in her Perdigon, Paco home. She was 90.

Kasilag remains lie in state at the premier chapel of Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe, Makati City. A special mass will place on Monday at the Loyola Chapel, with pianist Fr. Manuel Maramba officiating.

Necrological services will be held on Thursday, August 21 at the CCP Main Theater, and interment at the Manila South Cemetery.

Born in 1917, Kasilag, or "Tita King", is the author of more than 200 compositions (folksongs, opera and orchestral works), and was once the head of the Asian Composers League and was composing till this year.

Her last work was the Filipino opera "Why Flowers Bloom In May," which was staged at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in March 2008 with Fides Cuyugan Asencio as librettist. This opera was the National Artist's last date with the CCP. "I gave Tita King her first and last music theater piece," said Asensio.

Kasilag was also one of the pioneers of the world-famous Bayanihan Dance Company, which benefited from her music research of Filipino ethnic dances.

Named National Artist for Music in 1989, Kasilag was also president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines during the Marcos years, which music lovers like to describe as the "golden age of CCP" in terms of world-class presentations. She also served the Aquino administration as special consultant.

As composer, teacher and performer, Kasilag involved herself wholly in sharpening the Filipino audience's appreciation of music. Her pioneering task to discover Filipino roots through ethnic music and fusing it with Western influences led many Filipino musicians to experiment with the fusion of Eastern and Western music.

$$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

Smart ways to earn from trash (and save the planet)

By MA. ESTHER SALCEDO-POSADAS
MONEYSENSE

Editor's Note: This article is from MoneySense, the country's first and only personal finance magazine. Visit www.moneysense.com.ph for more.

In case you haven't heard, the US government has already classified the polar bear as a threatened specie due to thinning icebergs brought about by global warming. Global warming is essentially caused by excessive carbon and greenhouse gas emissions that can be prevented by, among many other things, recycling trash.

So before relegating anything to the trash bin, think again. What you are about to throw away may have some value.

A fashion statement

Some innovative Filipino minds have managed to make a fashion statement by simply converting used juice packs into shopping bags. The idea was so unique that it caught the attention of the world. Rajo Laurel and Reese Fernandez have followed a similar track by recycling old rags into fashionable items. What started as a "Rags to Riches" project aimed at helping underprivileged women has now blossomed into a cottage industry.

Another's treasure

Traded items also have some value even if actual cash is not exchanged. As long as the bartered good is useful to the other party, the item still has value. You could rally a group of friends to start an exchange day. Take a look at each other's trash; you may discover some hidden treasures.

Revalued antiques

Before you give away your grandfather's dusty old camera or your grandmother's aparador, bear in mind that there may be individuals who may be willing to pay a tidy sum for it. Educate yourself about what constitutes a marketable treasure. Even a little Internet surfing could bring new ideas.

Recycled food scraps

Starbucks gives away used coffee grinds for conversion into fertilizer. With rising gas prices, biofuel is now big business. Some people are even experimenting with used vegetable oil as a possible source of energy.

Visit a waste trading market

If you run out of ideas on how to convert your trash into cash, you may consider visiting a waste trading market found at various malls in the country.

Nancy Pilien, project officer of Philippine Business for the Environment Inc. explains that the retail waste trading markets had their origins from the once-a-year recycling events that PBE held for corporations with industrial waste. The non-profit group serves as a confidential matching arm of corporations and recyclers, all of whom must be approved by the DENR. Reciting the company motto, she says, "Always remember: if you're not recycling, you're throwing it all away."

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Ninoy, home at last

Why did Ninoy Aquino return home that fate-defining day 25 years ago? The threats to the life of the leader of the opposition to Ferdinand Marcos were as numerous as they were credible. Even the risks outlined for him by one half of the conjugal dictatorship, Imelda Marcos, while they inevitably carried a whiff of Imeldific exaggeration, were in the end plausible and sobering. Too, under Marcos law, Aquino was facing a death sentence; to return to the Philippines after three years in exile was not only to tempt the gods of extrajudicial executions but also to dare the divinities controlling the judicial kind.

Exile is emasculating; it tantalizes displaced political activists with glimpses of power, intimations of influence, at the very time it weighs them down with an air of impotence. But, however peripheral an exile's life can be, it is still to be preferred (or at least many of us would choose it in the normal course of things) to a life in prison. If Aquino had survived any assassination attempt or enjoyed even a temporary relief from the death sentence a military tribunal imposed on him, he would still have ended up in jail—closer to the people he wanted to serve, but even more at the mercy of the people he opposed.

There was talk that Aquino was really nothing more than a traditional politician with an unslaked lust for power, and that, sensing Marcos' imminent death, he had wanted to come home to place a claim on the succession. This was an image that readers of Marcos' crony press could readily visualize; they had been fed a steady diet of unflattering stories about a young and on-the-make politician, surrounded by a battalion of bodyguards and an overwhelming sense of elite entitlement. But in fact the crony press did not acknowledge, and indeed failed to recognize, that Aquino was a radically changed man because of what Marcos and his regime had done to him. Aquino's years in the Marcos gulag had purged him of artifice and ambition.

In other words, Ninoy Aquino's decision to come home at a perilous time in the country's history, and at great personal risk, could only have happened because he had been imprisoned and he had been exiled.

Why did he return home? Because as a willing victim he knew he had to. The video footage of his arrival shows Aquino looking concerned when soldiers entered the plane to fetch him. At that moment, he must have known (it shows on his face), that he had in fact chosen death. But at least he was back home, at last. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Ninoy's 'final goodbye'

The government officially celebrated the 25th anniversary of the assassination of Benigno Aquino Jr. on Monday with the unveiling of the bronze bust of Aquino at the recently opened Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The memorial ceremony at the airport's departure hall led by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo turned out to be not a celebration of the martyrdom of Aquino but a stage that unmasked the deep estrangement between the President and the senator's widow, former President Corazon Aquino, who snubbed the commemoration.

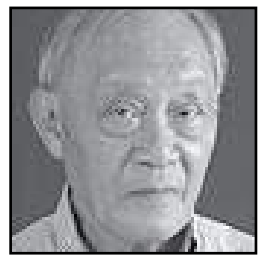
Ms. Aquino has been a leading critic of the Arroyo regime and a campaigner in civil society movements calling for the President's resignation. This rift overshadowed the fact that the murder of Aquino 25 years ago has remained unsolved despite several judicial trials and commissions on inquiry during two administrations (those of President Ferdinand Marcos and President Aquino). None of these trials and commissions established who the mastermind was of the murder.

No one is asking this year for the reopening of the case. Nor is there any claim of discovery of fresh evidence to warrant reinvestigation.

In a startling revelation, Steve Psinakis, a leading figure of the anti-Marcos Movement for Free Philippine in the United States, released to the Philippine Daily Inquirer for the first time a transcript of a taped phone conversation he had with Aquino two days before Aquino boarded the plane in Los Angeles for his return to the Philippines. Psinakis said Aquino called him to tell him his "final goodbye." He played the tape to me. Excerpts:

Aquino: Now this is the latest Steve that I can give you, my source is Cardinal (Jaime) Sin. Number one: Marcos checked in at the Kidney Center... He flunked all the tests and the conclusion was, if they operate on him, it would be fatal. So he went back to the Palace. He is no longer responding to medication and he will have to be hooked up on the dialysis machine now more often.

How he will last with that machine on, I don't know. Apparently, they are now moving to put Imelda in effective control. And they are going to revamp the Cabinet, with most probably Bobby Ongpin as prime minister and finance minister; Ayala, agriculture minister; Danding Cojuangco, defense minister; O.D. Corpuz, foreign minister.



Analysis
By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I don't know. But there is a major shakeup. Marcos met with his generals and apparently said goodbye to them last Friday. He was on television in Manila 24 hours ago, commenting on the boxing of Navarette and Talbot to show the people he is OK.

But it's a matter of time, so he wanted three weeks to collect his thoughts, write his memoirs, complete his book and most probably craft the final stages of his administration. He is now on terminal. He knows he's going and that's the background that I'm coming in.

Psinakis: If he is going and he knows it, he might show some compassion for the country, and treat your return with more pragmatic…

Aquino: Yes.

Psinakis: That's the good part. The bad part maybe is that the hardliners like [Gen. Fabian] Ver who are without any political savvy, who may think they're next in line. Obviously such people will look at your return without too much kindness…

Aquino: Well, there are two reports I received along that line. If they pinpoint the plane I am coming in, the rumor in Manila is that I am taking the private jet of Enrique Zobel from Hong Kong, but all planes have been guarded and they may close the airport on Sunday or turn back the plane if they will be able to pinpoint on which plane I am coming in. The third one, and this is really iffy, they have two guys stationed to knock me out at the airport and they will try them for murder, they will convict them but they have assurances.

Those are the things that I have been alerted to. I don't know what options they will do now but I am meeting with ASEAN leaders beginning Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday… Now, Japan has sent word that if Imelda is in place, (Prime Minister) Nakasone is willing to use his economic clout ... to tell Imelda that if you treat Aquino nicely, we can dialogue.

Nakasone is willing to send a private envoy … with a personal letter making a plea for, if I am still alive and in prison, that if they will treat me gently and come up with some kind of an understanding, Japanese economic assistance will continue because they are very uptight and if the woman takes over and there will be chaos, you know, that will be chaos.

ASEAN today is already one region and any instability in one part of ASEAN will scare investors. That's why they are very uptight about the possibility of chaos and instability in the Philippines with Imelda. Now to what extent they will be able to mitigate the hardliners, I don't know. That's the chance we have to take. If I survive and I get to prison and I am there in a week's time, I can start the works going.

Those are the trump card I am bringing home, which of course, can be negated if one character can blow me out. There's no doubt now. If I get into my prison, there's no doubt how like 100 percent I will be brought directly to prison, I may not even get a chance to talk to anybody on the ground.

But that's okay. As long as I am alive and in prison, I can start using my trump cards. I will try to hold out for a meeting with Marcos. Now that he is about to meet his Maker, I am almost confident that I can talk to him and sell him something, although the cardinal now tells me that if you think you can sell Marcos a bill of goods, forget it, you're dreaming.

Psinakis: Any indication from the US side that they might be somewhat helpful or cooperative or absolutely nothing?

Aquino: No indication except that they are watching me and they are following all my steps.

Peace

Frankly, I don't know why we continue to debate Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Memorandum of Agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front or even the path to peace in Mindanao. Of course, there's nothing in the world Arroyo's allies would like us to do—it distracts from the real problem. The problem is not whether the MOA will give us peace in Mindanao or not. The problem is whether we can have peace—in Mindanao or elsewhere—with Arroyo in power.

Arroyo herself gave us the true framework for looking at the problem when she vowed on Jose Rizal's grave in December 2002 not to run for president. To do so, she said, would be to bring divisiveness to this country. She readily admitted to being a source of it: "Since I'm among the principal figures in the divisive national events for the last two or three years, my political efforts can only result in never-ending divisiveness."

That was the only truth she told in her entire watch. Only to conscript it in the service of a lie: She ran, anyway.

And stole the vote. Since then, we have been in the grip of never-ending divisiveness, from the northernmost province, Aparri to the southernmost, Jolo, from the political to the moral, from the present to the future. And "never-ending divisiveness" doesn't even begin to capture it. I'll leave my readers to their descriptions of our current nightmare, they've done a good job of it in the text messages they've inundated me with over the last few weeks. The framework is even truer today. Arroyo could very well say now, "Since I am the central figure in the divisive national events for the last eight years, my political efforts can only plunge this country deeper into hell." She could very well say that because she means to stay in power anyway. Unless we do something about it.

Maybe a Bangsamoro homeland is nothing to be feared. Maybe a MOA with the MILF is desirable. But that is not the point. The point is that there's nothing sacred this government will not pervert. Not vows to not run, not vows to not stay, not vows to grant a Bangsamoro homeland. Who the hell doesn't want peace in Mindanao? Who in heaven doesn't want federalism to improve the fortunes of the countryside? But put those things in the hands of this government, and the last thing you'll have is peace in Mindanao, the last thing you'll have is federalism. The first thing you'll have is the most unpopular, distrusted and hated leader this country has ever had ruling this country forever.

There's The Rub
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Mar Roxas probably thought he was coming into his own when he proclaimed in a full-page ad in the Inquirer last Saturday his vigorous opposition to the MOA. The item, entitled "Mar Roxas speaks out," listed his reasons for doing so and ended with the war cry: "No to chop-chop, no to Cha-cha."

It's not a bad deal, but it misses the point. Whether or not the MOA will bring divisiveness in Mindanao is not the point. Whether or not the person pushing it will divide the country even more is. The first is a doubt, the second is a certainty. The problem is not the MOA, the problem is Arroyo.

Enough of taking a defensive stance against the exactions of this regime. Enough of responding piece by piece, brick by brick, blow by blow, to the exactions of this regime. Enough of beating around the bush, blaming everything and everyone except the one entity or thing to blame for all this. Stop fighting the MOA, peace in Mindanao, Executive Order 464 or its reincarnation, "executive privilege," the "calibrated preemptive response" policy on public protests, the murder of activists and journalists, Charter change, de facto martial law.

Just stop Arroyo.

I will not yield to the impassioned and positively murderous suggestions of people who have emailed and texted me what they think should be done about The Problem. My own proposal, a perfectly constitutional, moral, and commonsensical one, is to go back to the heart of the matter, which is the legitimacy question. A question that burns even more brightly, or terrifyingly, now that the current non-president is determined to remain non-president or non-whatever-form-of ruler for life.

It's time we brought back public attention to the seizure of power in 2004 and reflect on what it means. Which is that someone who was never bound by law to step in in 2004 will not be bound by law to step down in 2010. Which is that someone who can dare to seize power by the vote if not by the bullet in 2004 will dare to seize power by the throat if not by Charter change in 2010—or well before.

It's time we called with one voice for snap elections. Enough of waiting for 2010. A term that never started will never end. The notion that snap elections pose a host of legal problems is vapid. If Arroyo can find a legal justification for the most illegal things in the world, we can certainly find one for the sanest thing in the world. Where there's a will, there's a way—and we cannot have a more obdurate will, or ought to, than where our very survival is at stake. Stop parrying the exactions of this government. Fight back. Call for snap elections. Change this government.

Then and only then talk Charter change. Then and only then talk federalism. Then and only then talk peace in Mindanao—or elsewhere. It's no guarantee we will have any of these with a new government, but it's a guarantee we will have none of these with this one. Arroyo and peace are oil and water. Arroyo and truth are oil and water. Arroyo and a public mandate are oil and water. They are an oxymoron (with emphasis on moron). They are a contradiction in terms.

There is only one thing that will pave the road to peace, and that is Arroyo giving us peace, quite apart from resting in it. She goes—one is tempted to add, now rather than later, but she doesn't go now there will be no later—and it won't just pave the road to peace. It will pave the roads to faith, hope and charity.

Who knows? Maybe it will even pave the roads near where I live.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

STREET MARKET PERFORMANCE
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rhythm 'n' Body Crew'S youngest members Reica, John, Mozel, Bryce, Judy-ann, Jr, Jacob and Patricia wow the crowd with their cha cha, boggie and tango dance performances.

SKILLS TRAINING
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Volunteer-instructor Hermie Coronejo demonstrates the art of sushi-making while OFW students of Culinary Arts take notes and pictures.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Home Décor Plus Sewing Class volunteer-instructor Ma. Teresa De Jesus, center, explains how to design curtains as her students listen.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students of the Basic Baking Class and volunteer-instructor Ofelia Lopez, center, in red apron, proudly present their finished products.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rhythm 'n' Body Crew muses Ailene, Janee and Jenny perform a Tahitian dance number at the Garapan Street Market Thursday night.

Bryce Cayabyab smiles for the camera while waiting for his turn to perform.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHILDREN'S FUN DAY
Children participate in the newspaper game during the first ever Children's Fun Day at Kilili Pavilion in Susupe.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

BACK TO BASICS
Ronald Carreon plays his guitar during a power outage in Garapan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Youngstyle

Inside outer space

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Astronaut Don Thomas gave this KidsPost Summer Book Club selection a ride on the space shuttle.

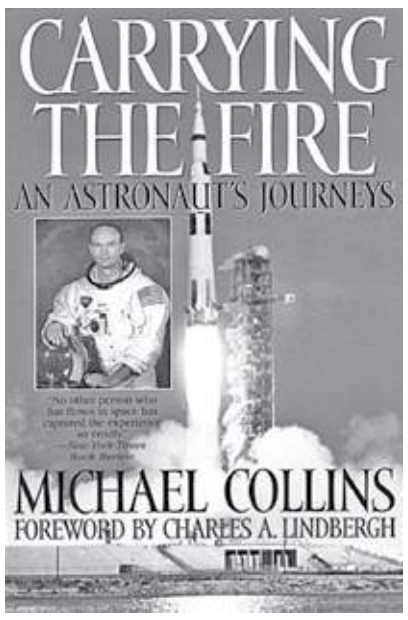
"Carrying the Fire ,"
by Michael Collins
Ages 11 and older

You probably know that Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon. While Armstrong was taking his "one small step" (along with fellow astronaut Buzz Aldrin), a third astronaut, Michael Collins, was flying the Apollo 11 capsule that Armstrong and Aldrin would return to.

In this autobiography, Collins writes about his life as an astronaut, including this amazing description of what it was like to be circling the moon while his friends walked on it: "I am alone now, truly alone, and absolutely isolated from any known life. ... Outside my window I can see stars—and that is all. Where I know the moon to be, there is simply a black void, the moon's presence is defined solely by the absence of stars."

Ever looked at pictures of the moon and thought how bumpy its surface is? Up close, Collins writes, the moon looks "as smooth as a billiard ball."

This book features beautiful writing, honest memories and some very funny astronaut stories. At 544 pages, it's long, but we bet many readers won't be able to put down this real-life adventure story.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Astronaut Don Thomas recommends "Carrying the Fire," by Michael Collins, for the KidsPost Summer Book Club. In this autobiography, Collins writes about his life as an astronaut, including an amazing description of what it was like to be circling the moon while his friends walked on it.

SCANNING THE SHELVES

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

If you're interested in space but not up for a 500-plus-page book, you'll want to check out "Space," part of the Eye Wonder series from DK Publishing. Any book from DK is worth looking at for the beautiful illustrations and astonishing facts. Did you know that on Uranus, winter lasts 42 years? Or that Neptune is the windiest planet in the solar system? Or that there are no rivers, seas or oceans on Venus? The larger type and short chapters make this book good for kids as young as 6, but the information's quality and the great way it is presented make it perfect for older kids. We suspect even some parents would love this book.

Astronaut Don Thomas

Reading with the stars: Don Thomas

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Don Thomas is a former NASA space shuttle astronaut who heads the Willard Hackerman Academy of Mathematics and Science at Towson University in Maryland. Thomas flew four shuttle missions—three on Columbia and one on Discovery—logging 44 days in space, 600 Earth orbits and 20 million miles of space travel.

His book recommendation is the story of another astronaut, Michael Collins.

"As one of the early astronauts, Mike Collins was one of my heroes as a young boy," Thomas says. "... Collins was selected to be an astronaut in 1963 in NASA's third group of astronauts. He went on to fly three space missions, including the Apollo 11 mission that first landed humans on the moon in 1969. He does a good job describing the personal side of being an astronaut and honestly talks about his feelings. He remained in orbit around the moon while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the surface of the moon. I flew a copy of this book ("Carrying the Fire") along with me on space shuttle Columbia between July 1 and 17, 1997, completing 251 orbits of the Earth and traveling 6.3 million miles."

'Left Behind': Bible-based series is action-packed

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

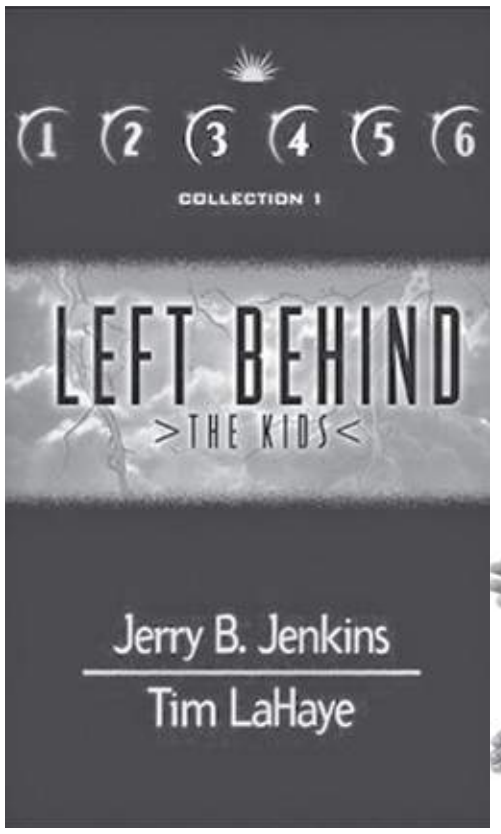
The KidsPost Summer Book Club recommendation this week is from actor Tyler James Wilson.

"Left Behind: The Kids"
By Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins
Ages 10-14

Based on the popular "Left Behind" series of Christian books for adults, there are 40 titles in the kids' version, which has sold more than 10 million copies and been collected into 12 sets. The story is based on the Bible's Book of Revelation.

The series opens with "The Vanishings," in which millions of people around the world (including all of the young children) disappear in a single instant. Those who are left behind, which is where the series title comes from, must try to figure out what has happened to their family members and friends and what it means that they were not taken as well.

The kids' version of this series focuses on four teens (Judd, Lionel, Vicki and Ryan) as they confront a dangerous present and an uncertain future.



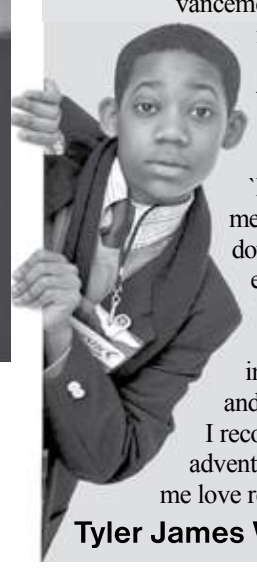
THE WASHINGTON POS

TV's Tyler James Williams recommends the a tion-packed Bible-based series "Left Behind: Th Kids" for KidsPost's Summer Book Club. Ther are 40 titles in the series, by Tim LaHaye and Je ry B. Jenkins, which has sold more than 10 millic copies and been collected into 12 sets.

Reading with the stars: Tyler James Williams

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Tyler James Williams, 15, has been acting since he was 4 and began appearing regularly on "Sesame Street." Among his roles, he starred in the 2006 PG film "Unaccompanied Minors" and currently plays the title character in "Everybody Hates Chris," a TV show inspired by the childhood of comedian Chris Rock. Last year Tyler became the youngest person to win the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Image Award for outstanding actor in a comedy series.



Tyler lives in New York with his parents and two younger brothers. He enjoys basketball, piano, macaroni and cheese, and history.

"My favorite book in middle school was the `Left Behind' series," Tyler says. "... This book had me sitting on the edge of my seat, not wanting to put it down at night. I would read and read and read until my eyes were so tired I almost fell asleep in the book.

"'Left Behind' is a perfect mixture of drama and action. It is based on the Book of Revelation in the Bible. I found that it was not only exciting and fun, but a great way to get interested in the Bible. I recommend this book to anyone who likes a book of adventure and plot changes. 'Left Behind' truly made me love reading."

Tyler James Williams

SCANNING THE SHELVES

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- "In the Days of Sand and Stars," by Marlee Pinsker, connects the stories of eight women in the Bible, including Eve, Leah and Rachel. The book also has interesting art. For ages 9 to 13.
- "Emil and Karl," by Yankev Glatshteyn (translated by Jeffrey Shandler), is one of the first books for children about the Holocaust. Published in 1940 but only recently translated in English, it's the story of two Austrian boys, one of them Jewish, trying to survive the Nazi horror. For ages 10 and older.
- "Muhammad of Mecca: Prophet of Islam," by Elsa Marston, is a biography of Islam's greatest prophet, revered by Muslims worldwide. Muslim beliefs and customs also are explained. For ages 10 to 14.
- "One World, Many Religions," by Mary Pope Osborne, is a brief overview of the major religions. It describes their histories, beliefs and practices. For ages 9 to 12.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Italian Cookies

By BRIANNA COLUMBO, JESSICA GUERRA and JOHN NAPOLITANO
KIDSDAY CHEFS

(c) 2008, Newsday

1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar
2 eggs
1/2 cup orange juice
1/4 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon lemon extract
4 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

Glaze:
1 egg
1 tablespoon orange juice

1. In a large bowl, beat butter, sugar and 2 eggs with an electric mixer until combined. Add 1/2 cup orange juice, milk, and vanilla and lemon extracts; mix well.

2. In another bowl, combine flour and baking powder. Gradually stir into butter mixture, kneading at end to combine.

3. Roll 1-inch balls of dough into "S" shapes on a lightly floured board. Place on lightly greased baking sheets.

4. For glaze, beat an egg with 1 tablespoon orange juice. Brush on top of cookies. Bake in a preheated, 350-degree oven for 12 to 15 minutes, or until golden. Makes 3 dozen.

Crepes

By SARAH-JANE LYNN
KIDSDAY CHEF

1 cup flour
1 1/2 cups milk
3 eggs, beaten
1 teaspoon vegetable oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
Optional toppings:
Fresh strawberries or blueberries, jam, or sifted confectioners' sugar

1. Blend flour and milk in a blender. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour batter into a bowl and refrigerate for 1 hour.

2. Heat a lightly oiled skillet (or crepe pan) over medium until hot. Pour 1/2 cup batter into pan. When bottom becomes lightly browned (about 2 minutes), flip over and cook on other side. Top with fresh berries, jam or sifted confectioners' sugar, if desired.

Katie's Nachos

By KATIE BEACH
KIDSDAY CHEF

1 (13-ounce) bag tortilla chips
1 (8-ounce) package shredded Cheddar cheese
4 scallions, sliced
4 tomatoes, diced
Optional toppings:
Salsa
Sour cream
Guacamole

1. Cover the bottom of a rectangular jelly roll pan (or a 9-by-13-inch baking pan) with aluminum foil. Then spread tortilla chips evenly on top. Sprinkle the cheese evenly over the chips. Then sprinkle scallions and tomatoes on top of the cheese. Put the pan under a preheated broiler for at least two minutes. Watch it so it doesn't burn. You'll know it's done when the cheese is nicely melted.

2. For a variety of flavors, top the nachos with salsa, sour cream and, my favorite, guacamole.

Cream Cheese Roll-Up Cinnamon Cookies

By CHEYENNE CHAO
KIDSDAY CHEF

1 loaf white bread (about 16 slices)
4 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons cinnamon
2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 stick unsalted butter

1. Cut crusts off bread slices and roll slices flat with a rolling pin; set aside.

2. In a shallow bowl, combine sugar and cinnamon; set aside.

3. In another shallow bowl, melt butter; set aside.

4. In a mixing bowl, beat softened cream cheese, milk and vanilla extract with an electric mixer until smooth. Spread mixture onto slices of flattened bread. Roll up each bread slice.

5. Dip bread rolls in melted butter and then roll in sugar-cinnamon mixture. Cut rolls into 1 inch pieces and place on baking sheets that have been lightly sprayed with cooking spray.

6. Bake in a preheated, 350-degree oven for 10 minutes, or until lightly browned.

Cornflake Chicken

By MIRANDA MADISON
KIDSDAY CHEF

1 to 1 1/2 pounds boneless chicken breast, sliced into 1/2-inch strips
1 (18-ounce) bottle barbecue sauce
2 cups crushed cornflakes

1. Pour barbecue sauce in a shallow bowl. In another bowl, place crushed cornflakes.

2. Dip sliced chicken into barbecue sauce and then roll lightly into cornflake crumbs. Place in a lightly greased 13-by-9-inch baking pan. Bake in a preheated, 350-degree oven for 30 minutes, or until chicken is cooked through. Makes 4 servings.

Crunchy Ice Cream Cups

By TIANA WARHOLA
KIDSDAY CHEF

50 Nilla wafers
1 cup flaked coconut
1/4 cup butter, melted
1 cup chopped pecans, optional
1 pint vanilla ice cream, softened
1 pint chocolate ice cream, softened
8 (9-ounce) plastic cups

1. Using a food processor, chop Nilla wafers into fine crumbs and place in a bowl. Add coconut, butter, and, if desired, pecans; stir until combined. Place 2 tablespoons of mixture into each plastic cup and press onto bottom. Divide vanilla ice cream evenly into cups. Freeze for 25 minutes.

2. Sprinkle remaining wafer-coconut mixture evenly into each cup. Cover each with chocolate ice cream.

3. Freeze for 1 hour or until firm. Let stand for 10 minutes to soften slightly. Makes 8 servings.

Kidsday Shopper: Stuff kids buy

THE BLITZ BALL

By Patrick Doyle
KIDSDAY REPORTER

(c) 2008, Newsday

If you like to play baseball or Wiffle ball, I have a new ball that will make you an even better pitcher. I tested out the Blitz Ball ($9.99 for four balls). It was really cool because it curves in an amazing way. The way the ball spins is incredible.

Instead of having holes like a regular Wiffle ball, it has 72 dimples. It will take you a long time to learn how to control it, but once you do, you will have a great time. You can throw this ball harder than a regular Wiffle ball, too. The downside comes when it is time to hit the ball -- it is really hard!

BRAIN GAMES 2

By Gabrielle Keller and Elleka Martin
KIDSDAY REPORTERS

Brain Games 2 ($25, Radica) is a cool and fun gadget for kids who love to play portable video games and yearn for a little learning. It has five challenging games to choose from. A favorite game is Sequence. You have to memorize numbers, in order, before they go black and disappear. You need a great memory, or if you don't have such a great memory, then this game might make an impact on your memory. It's recommended for ages 8 and older and is good to play on a long trip this summer because it's portable.

KLUTZ JEWELRY KIT

By Lavina Lim
KIDSDAY REPORTER

You may know how to make jewelry by stringing beads, but you can also make unique and very pretty bracelets, anklets and rings by crocheting them with Klutz's Spool Knit Jewelry kit by Anne Akers Johnson ($19.95). In this craft kit, you get all you need to crochet jewelry 10 different ways. There are also more than 500 beads for decorating. To make your jewelry awesome and not dull or boring, I suggest using beads in colors that match, but are not all the same. This kit is recommended for ages 12 and older and is available at craft and book stores or at klutz.com.

MARIO LOPEZ'S KNOCKOUT FITNESS

By Claire Beaver, Abbi Bennett and Brendan Speer
KIDSDAY REPORTERS

We really enjoyed reading "Mario Lopez's Knockout Fitness" ($26.95, Rodale Books) Mario played A.C. Slater on "Saved by the Bell," was a finalist on "Dancing With the Stars" and now is on Broadway in "A Chorus Line." In the book, we like how different sports and exercises are explained. We also like the "Hey Mario" columns; they have interesting questions he answers. Mario is in very good shape and photos of him working out are helpful. Daily menus are included that tell you what and when to eat. There are also lists of good and bad food choices. But some workouts are too difficult for kids. It is also hard for kids to plan and prepare the suggested meals by themselves. This book is better for adults to share with kids. Maybe Mario can write a book just for kids. We have some good ideas for a title. Hey, Mario, call us!

MARIO AND SONIC OLYMPICS' VIDEO GAMES

By Scott Finn
KIDSDAY REPORTER

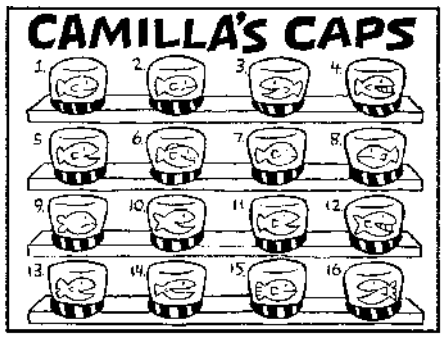
I tested the game Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games ($34.99, Sega for the Nintendo DS). This is a great game. If you're a fan of Sonic, Mario or the Olympic Games, this is for you. It has regular Olympic Games like the javelin throw, long jump, and the 400-Meter Dash, archery, gymnastics and so many more. If you play will you be on Team Sonic or Team Mario? Now, have fun and play, play, play. I give this game a perfect 5.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 2K8 VIDEO GAME

By R.J. Notel
KIDSDAY REPORTER

Major League Baseball 2K8 is a new video game (available for most systems, $30 to $60, 2K Sports). My friends -- Jack Aldrich, Pete Shilowich, Tyler Van Slyke -- and I played the Xbox 360 version. The pitching is difficult. We couldn't figure out how to pitch in the amount of time we had to play. Batting was very easy though. When swinging, hold your stance. Before the pitcher's windup you have to time it so you make contact. It is more like hitting in a real game All in all, MLB 2K8 is fun and challenging. My friends and I highly recommend it to anyone who likes sports video games. It's rated E.

CAMILLA'S CAPS

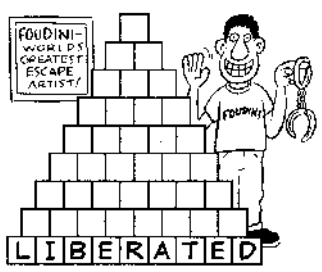


ALL OF "CAMILLA'S CAPS" should look alike. Alas, she received a batch of "seconds" and only two of them are exactly alike. Can you find these two in one minute flat?

Answer: Caps 5 and 11.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER

Starting with the given word LIBERATED at the bottom of our word pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with LIBERATED.

1. To set free (given).
2. One who decorates cars.
3. What the bloodhounds did.
4. A long, angry speech.
5. When an event is broadcast.
6. Very, very dry.
7. To free from.
8. A psychology term.
9. Me, myself and ___?

Answers: (from the bottom up): Liberated, dataller, trailed, tirade, aired, aid, id, I.

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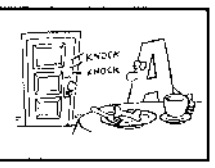
AN ALPHABET PARTY!
If all of the letters in the alphabet were invited to a luncheon party, which six letters would arrive late?



Answer: The letters U, V, W, X, Y and Z, because they only come after T (tea).

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "REGENT." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four 3-letter words across and three 4-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds

R		O	T
E	O		
G	A	C	
E		A	
N			
T			

Answers: (Across): Got, ore, ace, tan. (Down): Goat, orca, teen.

Small dog, small bladder

Q: Maybe you can help me. I got my dog from Animal Control four years ago. "Terry" is a Schnauzer-Terrier mix and was quite hyper, but is starting to calm down. She can be kind of strange at times. Not only does she squat to urinate, she will lift her leg. I've never seen a female do that before. Also, as many times as she urinates outside, she ends up going inside during the night. Do you have any idea why she might do that?

-- Loretta, via e-mail

A: I'm not sure why Terry both squats and lifts her leg to pee, but I have seen females do this before. So, let's chalk it up to preference for now.

The indoor, overnight urination and frequent urination during the daytime does concern me. You should take Terry to the veterinarian to rule out a urinary-tract infection or other physical problem such as kidney disease. Try to note any other out-of-the-ordinary actions for the vet: Does she drink a lot of water? Has she lost weight? Does her coat look dull or patchy? Does she appear distressed when urinating?

If Terry's health checks out, the next step is modifying her schedule and habits a bit. Small dogs have small bladders, so add a couple of extra trips outside daily—just before you go to bed late at night, and the absolute first thing in the morning. To discourage peeing, she should sleep in an enclosed space—a room or gated-off area—with her doggie bed, toys and water. Also reduce the amount of water in her bowl overnight—about a cup should do.

If the nighttime urination isn't resolved, add a pee pad to the enclosed sleep area and train Terry to use it. But continue to adhere to her walk schedule. As Terry becomes accustomed to the schedule, she should become less prone to go at night.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ Depending on your occupation, you may or may not be surprised by the following tidbit of information: According to a recent study, 33 percent of people who use BlackBerry wireless handheld devices show signs of addiction that are similar to those shown by alcoholics.

■ It was philosopher, poet and novelist George Santayana who made the following sage observation: "To knock a thing down, especially if it is cocked at an arrogant angle, is a deep delight of the blood."

■ In the Central Asian country of Mongolia, there are 15 livestock animals for every human inhabitant.

■ If you're intimidated by the ins and outs of the computer world, here's a sobering thought: Moore's Law states that computer technology tends to double in complexity every 18-24 months.

■ Giraffes are native to Africa, not North America, and the difference in climate can cause problems for these warm-weather animals living in zoos in chillier climates. The Oakland Zoo, located just outside San Francisco, has come up with a novel idea to help combat the cold. Since (for obvious reasons) strapping a blanket on a giraffe would be rather ineffectual, it had a tailor create a custom-fitted winter coat for Tiki, one of the tallest residents.

■ The airline industry isn't in great shape these days, due at least partly to the high cost of fuel. In an attempt to cut fuel costs, an airline in China is asking its passengers to use the restroom at the airport before boarding the plane. It seems that every flush at altitude uses enough fuel to run a car for 6 miles.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Computers are incredibly fast, accurate and stupid. Human beings are incredibly slow, inaccurate and brilliant. Together they are powerful beyond imagination." -- Albert Einstein

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MAGIC MAZE ● SOLAR SYSTEM PROBES

G W T Q N K I F C Z W U R P M
J H E C Z S X I U S Q N L J G
E C Z X V O N T R P N L J H E
C A O E L I L A G Y W V T R P
P R N L S L R R K I G E C H B
Z M E S S E N G E R X W O U S
R P A G N H S I S E N E G O M
L C J I A O I S G E N D D B A
Y X R W H Y E U Y I T O N S Q
P A S O M S O C X L O N I L K
M J A R E N E V A N U L W P H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

ACE	Helios	Phoenix	Venera
Cassini	Luna	Pioneer	Voyager
Cosmos	Mariner	SOHO	WIND
Genesis	MESSENGER	Ulysses	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		17
−		+		+	
	x		+		19
x		x		x	
	x		−		19
15		12		15	

1 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

GO FIGURE ANSWER

	15		12		15
19	1	−	4	x	5
	x		x		x
19	7	+	2	x	6
	+		+		−
17	8	+	1	÷	9

Taste Asian culture with spring rolls

Watching the Olympics and all of the fit athletes from all over the world makes me hunger for the Asian cuisine the Olympians and spectators are enjoying in Beijing. I have to admit that Asian food in our house usually comes from one of those little white containers with skinny metal handles. But when we eat out, we like to explore the innovative pan-Asian dishes that have become popular with American palates.

Spring Rolls, also called summer rolls, are one of my favorite Asian dishes, but I don't need to go globe-trotting further than the popular Rice Paper Asian Fusion restaurant in my neighborhood. Fresh, light and full of flavor, owner An Nguyen's preparation derived from her Vietnamese roots is tasty and thoughtfully presented.

An shared her recipe with me, and at the same time encouraged me to devise variations with my family. "Substitute sliced Swedish meatballs for the shrimp," she suggested, in a nod to my Scandinavian heritage. I encourage you to do the same. Once you have the basic ingredients out on your counter, take turns with your teens assembling spring rolls with your own family twist.

Ingredients for approximately 12 spring rolls:

■ 1 package round rice-paper wrappers (also known as spring rolls skin)
■ leafy lettuce washed and dry
■ 1 package fresh mung bean sprouts
■ chopped fresh cilantro leaves
■ chopped fresh mint leaves
■ chopped cilantro
■ 6 ounces rice stick noodles soaked in hot water until soft, about 10 minutes. Drain and snip with kitchen scissors to shorten.
■ 1 cup thinly sliced cooked chicken (or use deli slices)
■ 1 cup cooked shrimp, sliced lengthwise
■ 1 carrot, shredded
■ bottled peanut dipping sauce

To assemble:

Soak rice paper one at a time in a shallow dish of hot water until soft and flexible. Place on a clean, damp towel. Set chicken or shrimp slices in a row, 1 inch from the bottom edge. Set some lettuce on top, then layer with cilantro, mint, sprouts and noodles. Carefully fold the wrapper down over the mixture just to cover it as tightly as you can without tearing it, then fold the two sides in and continue to roll up until all edges are secure. Place seam-side down on a plate, cover with a damp cloth and refrigerate until ready to serve. Top with a sprig of cilantro and shredded carrots. To eat, dip into peanut sauce served in small bowls.

Note: Read how An's childhood memories in Vietnam influenced her recipes at www.ricepaperrestaurant.com.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Seinfeld to be pitchman for Microsoft

NEW YORK (AP)—Junior Mints, Yoo-hoo, Drake's Coffee Cakes, puffy shirts: These are all things Jerry Seinfeld has endorsed—at least in his alter ego on his classic sitcom. Now, add Microsoft software

Seinfeld will be a key pitchman in a planned $300 million fall advertising campaign for the software giant, a person familiar with the plans confirmed to The Associated Press on condition on anonymity because the deal has not been formally announced. The Wall Street Journal first reported the plans. Citing people close to the situation, it reported the comedian will be paid $10 million for appearing in ads with Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates.

It's Microsoft's latest move to try to capture some of the cool quotient that rival Apple has appeared to win so effortlessly.

But for younger consumers especially, can Seinfeld turn the image tide for Microsoft?

"Seinfeld does represent sort of a challenge," says Brian Steinberg, television editor for the weekly advertising magazine Ad Age. "He's not Dane Cook. He's got a more sophisticated everyday take on things. He often comes across as a questioner of conventional wisdom but also can be kind of a crank. It's a fine line to walk when you're dealing with a younger person."

Seinfeld

Steinberg did point out that the firm producing the spots—Crispin Porter and Bogusky—is known for creating commercials that appeal to young males, particularly in its campaigns for Burger King.

Seinfeld has shown himself to be a superior promoter in the past, particularly for American Express (which also featured Patrick Warburton as Superman) and in selling his Dreamworks animated film "Bee Movie" last summer.

For "Bee Movie," which Seinfeld co-wrote, co-produced and voiced, he also created 20 "TV juniors," which seemed less like commercials than one-minute bite-sized bits of comedy. The extensive promotion of the film began with him dressing up as a giant bee at the Cannes Film Festival.

"You gotta sell it," Seinfeld told the AP last year. "I've never been uncomfortable with that aspect. I don't feel like it's beneath me to sell what I did."

But Seinfeld's greatest triumph—the nine seasons of "Seinfeld"—ended more than 10 years ago, which means that many young computer users were still watching cartoons during his pop culture dominance.

Of course, the show is still on nightly reruns and Seinfeld has been active on the standup circuit. There have even been efforts to bring "Seinfeld" to younger demographics. Sony Pictures Television, which distributes "Seinfeld" in U.S. syndication, is holding a 26-city promotion in a cross-country bus tour of colleges.

Calls to Seinfeld's agent and manager went unreturned Thursday.

Vista, Microsoft's latest operating system that launched with the slogan "The Wow starts now," has received mostly negative publicity since its release last year. But sales have been strong, since more than 90 percent of PCs sold worldwide run Windows.

Apple's ad campaign "Get a Mac" pits a coat-and-tie clad older guy (John Hodgman) representing a PC, against jeans and T-shirt-wearing Justin Long, who plays the Mac. The commercials have also poked fun at Vista.

Steinberg said this latest campaign by Microsoft shows that the rivalry between the software company and Apple is reaching the intensity of Coke and Pepsi's cola wars of years ago.

It's also possible Seinfeld seems more like a Mac guy, Steinberg said.

After all, it's a Macintosh that's seen in the background of his apartment on "Seinfeld."

IN LOVING MEMORY

Maria (Terang) Terlaje Santos Muna

Also known as "Marian Estevan"
April 13, 1937 - August 20, 2008

In her new life Maria (Terang) now joins her:

Husband : Estevan Tudela Muna
Son : Francisco (Dadol) Santos Muna
Mother : Teresa Aquiningoc Terlaje Santos
Father : Jose Ada Santos
Parents-in-law : Sebastian Palacios Muna & Rosa Sablan Tudela

Her memories will live in the hearts of her children:

Carmen (Mae) S. Muna (Jacob, Cleavon/Majumi, Kyle)
Victor (To') S./Nid Muna (Allan)
Vicenta (Lily) M./Jose (Pepe') P. Sablan (Nanette/Joseph - Darwin, Nathan, Katelyn), Jovinette Emily, Leannette Terese)
† Francisco S./(+) Irene B. Muna (Rasann, Valerie, Karen, Steven)
Gilbert (Gil) S. Muna
Gerard Dominic/Melinda I. Muna (Joshua Joel, Stevielyn, Jennica)

Reared Children:

† Margaret (Adick) B./ † Gene B. Groover (Glen, Gabriel, Eugene, George)
Emmanuel (Chubby) S./Langlang Borja (Terrian)

Brothers, Sisters, Spouses and In-laws:

† Rosa S./ † Ramon M. Aguon
† Servino T./ † Carmen (Kino) F. Santos (Children)
† Jose (Lulu) T./Maria Lisa B. Santos (Children)
Teresita T./Eugene T. Borja (Children)

Alfonso Lorenso D./Esabel C. DL Guerrero (Children)
Jauna M./ † Jose A. Camacho (Children)
Catalina M./ † Gregorio F. Borja - Texas (Children)
Ana M./Peter Taitano - Guam (Child)
† Daniel T./Juana S. Muna (Children)
† Miguel T./Milagro L. Muna (Children)

Daily masses are being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. (except on Sunday, August 24th at 9:00 a.m.) and St. Jude Church at 6:00 p.m. Last respects for Maria (Terang) will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2008 leaving Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel (Cabrera Center) at 7-30 a.m. for final viewing from 8-00 - 9:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10,00 a.m. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yuus Maase, Thank You, Gillisow, Mesulang, Maraming Salamat Po!
From the Children, Grandchildren, & Great Grandchildren

Rejected by Hong Kong, Glitter arrives in Thailand

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thai police said disgraced rocker Gary Glitter agreed Thursday to leave Thailand for London, possibly ending a two-day odyssey that began when he was released from a Vietnamese prison after serving time for molesting children.

However, Police Maj. Gen. Phongdej Chaiprawat could not say when the 64-year-old rocker would leave Bangkok nor which flight he would be taking. Glitter has twice been refused entry into Thailand and once turned away from Hong Kong after his release Tuesday.

Glitter

A spokeswoman for Thai Airways, who refused to be identified because she was not authorized to speak to the press, confirmed Glitter was scheduled to leave late Thursday on one of its flight. But she refused to provide the departure time.

Glitter, a British citizen, flew to Hong Kong on Wednesday night after Thai authorities barred him from entering the country. Hong Kong immigration officials then refused him entry after interviewing him, a British Foreign Office spokesman said.

Police Col. Worawat Amornwiwat said Glitter arrived back in Bangkok on Thursday and would again be denied entry. He said Glitter's airline, Thai Airways, should ensure he continues on his originally planned journey to England.

"Thailand is not allowing him to enter the country and Hong Kong is turning him back so there is no choice for him now,' Worawat said. "It is the responsibility of Thai Airways to take him out of the country."

On Tuesday night, Glitter, whose real name is Paul Francis Gadd, was taken from his prison cell to a Thai Airways flight out of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. He had been booked to change planes in Bangkok en route to London, but refused to board the flight to Britain, complaining of an earache.

Lt. Gen. Chatchawal Suksomchit, chief of Thailand's immigration police, said Glitter was denied entry because under Thai immigration laws those convicted of child sex abuse in a foreign country can be barred.

Another officer said his department received a note from Vietnam and Interpol requesting that Glitter not be allowed entry into Thailand. The official spoke on condition of anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the press. Glitter, 64, was convicted in March 2006 of committing "obscene acts with children." He served two years and nine months of a three-year sentence, which was reduced for good behavior.

The incidents involved two girls, ages 10 and 11, from the southern coastal city of Vung Tau. The verdict said he molested the girls repeatedly at his seaside villa in Vung Tau and in nearby hotels. Glitter proclaimed his innocence.

Glitter's fall from grace began in 1997, when he took his computer to a repair shop and an employee there discovered he had downloaded thousands of hardcore pornographic images of children. Two years later, British authorities convicted him of possession of child pornography, and Glitter served half of a four-month jail term.

Rihanna, Pink, T.I. added as performers at VMAs

NEW YORK (AP)—Rihanna is back for another performance at the MTV Video Music Awards, along with Pink, Paramore and T.I., who will be making his first appearance at a major awards show since his arrest right before an awards ceremony last year.

The VMAs are set for Sept. 7 in Los Angeles with British comedian Russell Brand as the host. Performers already announced include the Jonas Brothers, Lil Wayne and Kid Rock.

Rihanna

Rihanna, who appeared with Chris Brown to sing her song "Umbrella" at last year's VMAs, is slated to perform her No. 1 hit "Disturbia"; Paramore plans to sing "Misery Business," while Pink is scheduled to showcase her new song "Say What."

"I can't wait," Pink said Thursday, adding that she plans to "blow stuff up."

Rapper T.I.'s appearance will be noteworthy given that the last time he was scheduled to perform at an awards show, he was arrested instead. He was apprehended in the parking last October before the BET Hip-Hop Awards in Atlanta and accused of trying to buy machine guns and silencers; he was sentenced earlier this year to serve about a year in prison after completing at least 1,000 hours of community service. He has a new album out next month.

'Desperate Housewives' stars teaming up for Emmys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The stars of "Desperate Housewives," snubbed by the Emmy nominators this time around, will get a moment in the ceremony's spotlight anyway.

Marcia Cross, Dana Delany, Teri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman, Eva Longoria Parker and Nicollette Sheridan were on the first list of presenters announced Thursday by the TV academy. The actresses will join together to hand out a trophy at the Sept. 21 ceremony airing on ABC.

AP

In this image released by ABC, the cast of "Desperate Housewives," from left, Eva Longoria Parker, Felicity Huffman, Marcia Cross, Teri Hatcher and Nicollette Sheridan are shown.

Nominations or no nominations, the houswives' ABC drama remains popular with viewers, and the Emmys could use a ratings boost: Last year's ceremony posted its second-smallest audience on record, just under 13 million.

Other pairings: Emmy nominees Julia Louis-Dreyfus ("The New Adventures of Old Christine") and Hugh Laurie ("House") will present separately, and Tina Fey ("30 Rock") and Amy Poehler ("Saturday Night Live") will team up. Fey and Poehler worked together on "SNL" and co-starred in the movie "Baby Mama."

"It's always fun to come up with unique pairings, cast reunions and surprising personalities as presenters on the Emmy show, and this year we've got a number of those," said Emmy executive producer Ken Ehrlich. "And the good news is, we've got plenty more to come."

Huffman won a best comedy series actress Emmy in 2005 and "Desperate Housewives" has received directing and other awards over the years. This year, guest actress nominations went to Polly Bergen and Kathryn Joosten and the show earned nods for costumes and hairstyling.

Crow aims to upload voters with free download

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sheryl Crow wants your vote—and figures she can get it for a song.

The Grammy Award-winning singer is offering a free download of her politically charged tune "Gasoline" to anyone who logs onto the Rock the Vote Web site or anyone on the group's mailing list.

And the first 50,000 people who register three friends to vote will get a free digital copy of her album "Detours."

"I hope people wake up and emotionally engage in issues," Crow said in a telephone interview during a visit to Los Angeles.

Crow's giveaway is a kickoff to Rock the Vote's voter registration drive, said the organization's executive director Heather Smith.

Crow, 46, was one of the founding artists of Rock the Vote 18 years ago. She said the "Detours" album fits perfectly into the group's cause since the lyrics touch on topics such as adoption, breast cancer, the war in Iraq, the environment and Hurricane Katrina.

"It's about the issues that everyone's talking about, but there's a lot of hope," Crow said. "At this moment in my life, writing about anything else would be uninteresting and impossible because I feel such urgency."

Rock the Vote aims to register 2 million young people to vote by November—the largest youth voter drive in history by three times, Smith said. Anyone who recruits three people to vote will have to log onto the Rock the Vote Web site and go through a verification process before receiving Crow's album, Smith said.

Gwen Stefani gives birth to second child

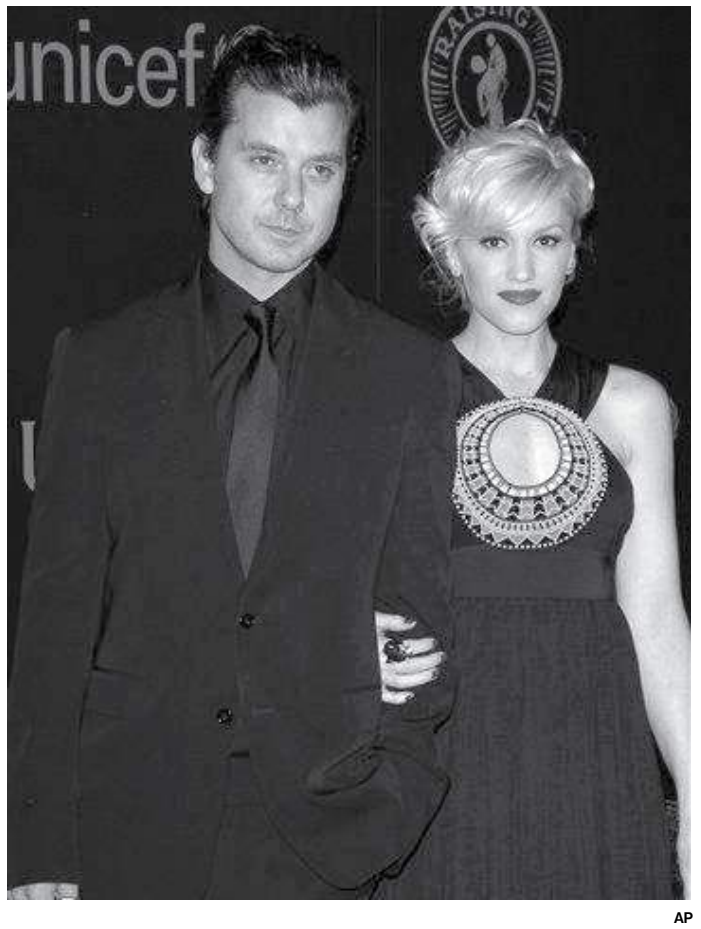
LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's Love, Angel, Music, and Baby No. 2 for Gwen Stefani, who on Thursday gave birth to a boy. Zuma Nesta Rock weighed 8 pounds and 5 ounces when he was born Thursday afternoon, according to publicist Dave Tomberlin.

"Mother, baby and family are all happy and healthy," he said in a statement.

The pop star and fashionista already has one son, Kingston, with her husband, rocker Gavin Rossdale. Rossdale also has a teenage daughter with fashion designer Pearl Lowe.

Stefani has racked up numerous hits and best-selling albums over the years, not only as a solo artist, but as the front woman for the band No Doubt. But the 38-year-old has also become a successful designer with her L.A.M.B. and other clothing lines.

Her last album, "The Sweet Escape," was released in 2006, a follow-up to 2004's multi-platinum "Love. Angel. Music. Baby."



AP

In this Feb. 6, 2008 file photo, musicians Gavin Rossdale and his wife Gwen Stefani arrive at "A Night to Benefit Raising Malawi and UNICEF" at United Nations headquarters.

Return of old friend is not return to old times

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been friends with "Ruth" for more than 40 years. She married, moved away, divorced and raised her family on her own. After 20 years, she moved back to town, and I was thrilled.

But now that we live a half-hour away from each other, Ruth has no interest in spending much time with me. My husband and I aren't ostentatious, but if he buys me a piece of jewelry for my birthday, she makes me feel spoiled and shallow for getting it.

Ruth has turned into a reverse snob who harshly judges anyone who has more than she does. If we go out to lunch (which is rare) and I wear a nice pair of slacks or a sweater, Ruth belittles me. She calls me self-absorbed because I fix my hair and wear makeup. What I see as taking care of myself, she considers vanity and showing off.

I hurt all the time over this. I just don't know what to do. Ruth talks on and on about people being strong and surviving hard times. Maybe I haven't suffered enough to be worthy in her eyes.

I don't know how to handle this, or if I even want to anymore. What should I do?

TIRED OF IT IN ILLINOIS

DEAR TIRED OF IT: Your friend appears to have had a hard life. Accept that people sometimes grow apart as they mature. If you feel you must see her, dress simply, leave your jewelry at home and exclude the topic of grooming from your conversation.

People who are unhappy with themselves sometimes take it out on others. During your years apart, Ruth seems to have picked up a lot of baggage. Accept that you can't fix what's ailing her, refuse to allow her frustration to get to you, and if that doesn't work, see less of her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: As a recent college graduate, what should I do when potential employers ask for "salary requirements" along with my cover letter and resume? I am entry-level, to put it optimistically, and in addition to having no idea of what an appropriate salary would be, I feel uncomfortable making such demands given my age and experience level. Can I ignore the request, or must I give them an answer?

YOUNG JOB SEEKER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR JOB SEEKER: Do not ignore the request. Employers ask about salary requirements in order to ascertain whether the needs of the applicant are within their ability to pay.

Do a little research and find out what the going rate is for entry-level positions in your area. You will find the information by visiting your public library and reviewing some of the trade publications in your field.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been reading your column for many years. When I see a letter of interest, I read it aloud to a couple of co-workers during the lunch break.

A couple of months ago, one of my co-workers stated that your columns are "asked and answered" by you. In other words, he suggested that the letters are fabricated. Is there any way you could help me convince him that they aren't?

TIM IN LONG BEACH

DEAR TIM: Probably not. However, I am not guilty as charged. The truth is, I could never make up anything as interesting—and sometimes bizarre—as the letters and e-mails that cross my desk every week. And that's the gospel truth.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

GIVE ME SOME COOKIES, OR I LIGHT THE FUSE AND SEND US ALL TO KINGDOM COME!
WHAT DID YOU DO, STICK A PIECE OF STRING INTO A HOT DOG? FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T WASTE FOOD, CALVIN. GIVE ME THAT.
CAN I HAVE ANY COOKIES?
NO. GO PLAY OUTSIDE.
I SURE WISH I COULD GET MY HANDS ON SOME REAL DYNAMITE.
CAN I HAVE THE HOT DOG, OR DID YOUR MOM TAKE IT?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THINK WE COULD AFFORD TO SEND THE KIDS TO PRIVATE SCHOOL IF THE ONLY CLOTHES WE HAD TO BUY FOR THEM WERE THEIR UNIFORMS?
MOM, DAD, I THINK I JUST OUTGREW THE SHOES WE BOUGHT TODAY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW'S OBEDIENCE SCHOOL GOING, FANG?
I DON'T KNOW, ENG. THERE ARE NEW RULES THIS YEAR.
NOW WHEN WE HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM WE'RE SUPPOSED TO POLITELY RAISE OUR HAND.
WHAT'D YOU DO BEFORE?
RAISED OUR LEG.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Drives the getaway car, maybe
6 Aussie girl
12 Mysteriously unusual
13 Do unrestrainedly
14 Show bad posture
15 Niche
16 Gilpin of "Frasier"
17 Defense acronym
19 Proof abbr.
20 Thick slice
22 Greek cross
24 Afternoon social
27 Comic-strip penguin
29 Parlor piece
32 Emulated Jack and Jill
35 Aware of
36 Pack away
37 Dine
38 Office holders
40 Unceasingly
42 Pronto
44 Test the waters
46 Duel tool
50 Defeated decisively
52 "Star Wars" weapons
54 To-do list
55 Scope
56 Of a recent time (arch.)
57 Classroom array

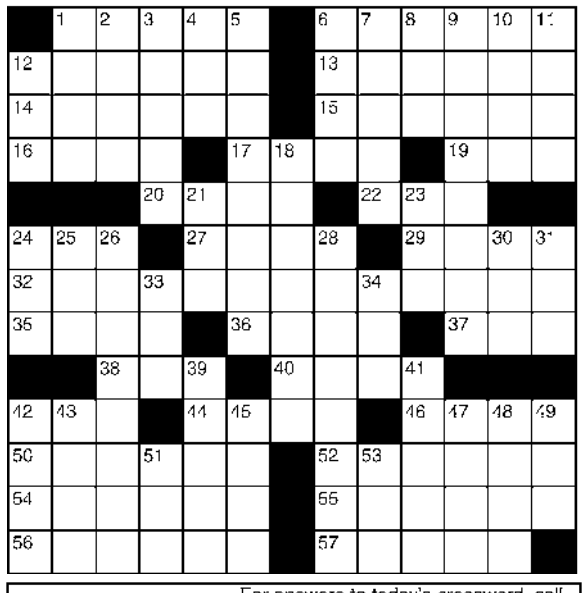
DOWN

1 Wheelbase terminus
2 Loutish one
3 Needle holders
4 First X?
5 Strong Dutch gin
6 Blind part
7 Serf
8 List-ending abbr.
9 Mohawk or Seneca
10 Part of SNL
11 Mimicked
12 Kreskin's claim
18 Touched
21 Bud's partner
23 Blond shade
24 Seesaw quorum
25 Still, in verse
26 They're nothing new
28 Dug
30 Winter woe
31 Piz Bernina, e.g.
33 Oodles of pounds
34 Flock member
39 Stockholmer, e.g.
41 Takes ten
42 Supplicate
43 Venetian magistrate
45 Hebrew month
47 Cheat at hide-and-seek
48 Sea flock
49 "Guinness Book" suffix
51 Potent stick
53 Pink-slip

Solution time: 27 mins.

E	T	A	■	M	A	I	M	■	S	A	R	A
B	A	R	■	A	N	N	A	■	C	R	A	G
B	L	E	E	P	I	N	G	■	E	C	H	O
S	C	A	L	P	S	■	I	A	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	F	E	E	■	C	R	E	E	P	Y
F	E	T	I	D	■	Y	A	M	■	S	E	A
E	A	R	N	■	C	A	L	■	W	A	L	L
D	R	U	■	O	A	K	■	C	H	U	T	E
S	L	E	E	P	Y	■	S	H	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	T	U	■	N	E	L	L	I	E
P	A	L	S	■	S	W	E	E	P	I	N	G
A	L	E	E	■	E	Y	E	S	■	A	R	G
S	P	I	N	■	S	E	R	E	■	R	E	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Finnigan, 29; Nicole Bobek, 31; Jay Mohr, 38; Shelley Long, 59

Happy Birthday: You don't have to give in, give up or give too much away this year. Don't let anyone stand in your way or slow you down. Changes in your relationships can be expected. Refresh your roster of friends, business associates and lovers, if need be, and prepare to move forward. Your numbers are 12, 20, 23, 27, 38, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let someone confuse you, especially if he or she can affect the outcome of something you are working on. Emotional energy will be high and a passionate encounter will help settle your nerves and keep you balanced. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you let your emotions take over, all will be lost. You must apply practicality, knowledge and common sense to whatever you do. Love is on the rise but, if you are too shy or refuse to make a move, you will miss out. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A secret affair or getting together with someone you should avoid will cause changes over which you have no control. Someone you think you can trust will let you down. If you have a bad feeling about someone or something, keep your distance. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't wait for someone else to start. Be the first to make a move or to try something new. You will impress the very people who interest you if you are willing to take on a challenge or make changes that may seem difficult but necessary. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Put your best foot forward and volunteer to help and you will be enriched by the people you meet and the things you learn. Don't miss out on experiences because you don't want to work for nothing. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Give everything you do your best shot and you will benefit. Getting together with friends will help you better understand who you are and what you want. Love is in the stars, so make special plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may be a little hard to handle if you don't like the way things are unfolding. Making a fuss after the fact is too late. You have to say what you think beforehand or accept the consequences. A secret involvement is likely to backfire on you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): If someone is showing interest in you or something you are working on, offer to show him or her more. Good suggestions will result from the questions you are asked. A change within a friendship may cause a problem between you and a loved one. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Focus on what needs to be done and avoid too much talk, conjecture and pontificating. Take action. Personal change is heading your way and the chance to start anew may be yours. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do work on your home yourself and it can lead to success in all areas of your life. Surround yourself with the things and the people that motivate you the most. Open your doors to individuals who can offer you what you don't already have. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You will have the ability to turn something small into something big. Refresh your surroundings by making a move, redecorating your space or entertaining people who motivate you. Accept suggestions that are made. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone will play emotional games with you. Prepare to let go of anyone who gives you an ultimatum or tries to bully you to do things you don't want to do. Protect your interests. 2 stars

Birthday Baby: You know how to use your charm and popularity to get what you want. You are a dynamic leader—determined, dedicated and loyal.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4					1		
6			4		8			2
		3		1		8		
	2					7		
		5				9		
	8					4		
		8		9		6		
4			5		6			3
	9					2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	5	3	9	2	1	7	8
7	3	9	1	8	6	2	4	5
8	1	2	4	7	5	6	3	9
1	7	6	2	5	8	3	9	4
3	2	4	7	1	9	8	5	6
9	5	8	6	3	4	7	2	1
5	6	1	9	2	7	4	8	3
4	8	7	5	6	3	9	1	2
2	9	3	8	4	1	5	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SYNAGOGUE ARCHITECTURE **Solution: 9 letters**

(E)	F	O	R	M	S	N	O	I	T	A	I	R	A	V
C	(M)	S	E	L	Y	T	S	C	H	O	O	L	E	E
N	L	(O)	F	C	M	P	A	N	E	L	S	S	S	R
E	B	A	(D)	O	B	O	G	I	T	C	T	M	T	U
U	X	M	S	U	O	A	S	N	R	I	A	I	A	T
L	M	P	I	S	L	R	E	N	B	C	P	P	E	C
F	B	L	A	L	I	I	N	U	M	L	A	M	S	U
N	D	E	E	N	C	C	L	A	U	U	P	S	N	R
I	V	R	A	N	S	E	A	P	I	L	L	I	E	T
S	Y	O	A	U	S	E	L	L	E	S	Q	O	T	S
R	U	N	G	O	T	H	I	C	P	U	S	H	C	T
A	I	S	A	U	I	Y	A	E	E	T	G	U	A	U
E	N	G	I	S	E	D	T	Y	R	I	T	E	R	D
L	D	I	V	E	R	S	E	S	L	L	A	H	E	Y
D	E	T	C	E	R	E	D	I	W	D	L	R	O	W

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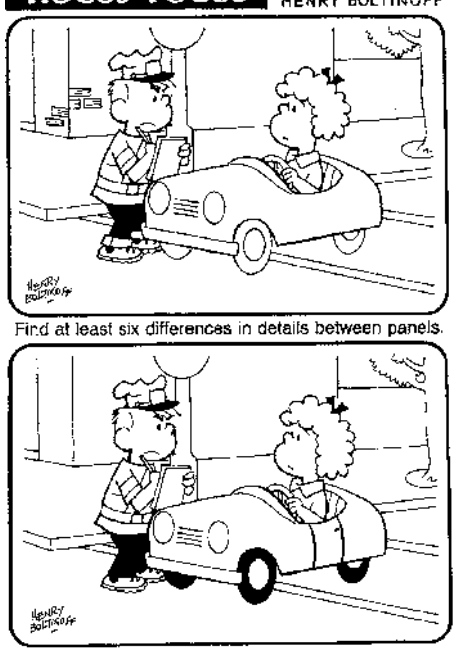
Ancient, Asia, Beauty, Build, Care, Classical, Climb, Columns, Design, Detail, Diverse, Dome, Erected, Expanse, Forms, Gallery, Gothic, Halls, Influence, Israel, Light, Panels, Pulpit, Rite, Roof, Russian, School, Seats, Space, Staircases, Steps, Structure, Study, Styles, Symbolic, Temple, Unique, Variations, Vestibules, Vogue, Worldwide

Yesterday's Answer: Chimeras

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Door added to car. 2. Tires are black. 3. Pants have no cuffs. 4. Bricks missing from wall. 5. Tree limb has been added. 6. Girl's hair is longer.

Wishing Well®

7	2	4	8	6	5	4	3	7	5	6	2	6
A	D	S	B	J	B	E	A	S	E	O	O	V
7	6	4	8	2	4	7	2	6	4	6	2	3
O	I	E	E	A	K	L	F	A	T	L	R	P
2	4	7	4	3	2	5	6	4	3	4	6	3
I	H	U	E	E	E	G	D	T	R	R	I	F
5	6	7	8	7	6	4	3	5	8	7	5	3
R	S	T	C	I	P	U	E	A	H	O	C	C
6	7	6	5	4	3	4	7	6	2	6	7	3
O	N	S	I	T	T	H	N	I	N	T	E	U
6	2	8	5	6	2	5	6	5	8	2	7	2
I	D	O	O	O	A	U	N	S	O	F	A	A
7	2	8	7	2	7	8	3	7	3	2	3	3
R	V	S	I	O	N	Y	N	G	I	R	O	N

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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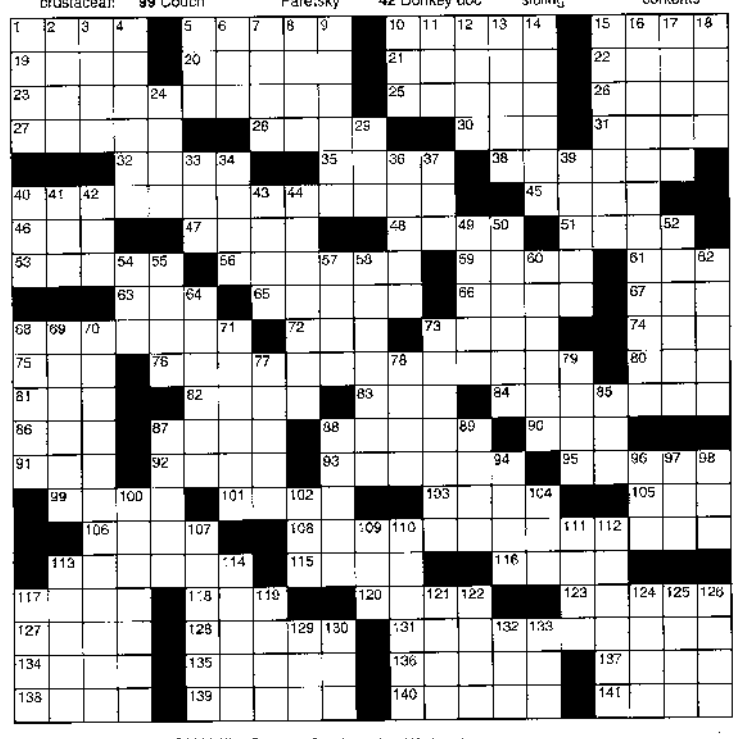
Super Crossword ALTERNATIVES

ACROSS

1 Type of file
5 Broadway org.
10 Bog
15 — Cass
19 Game ending?
20 Prentiss or Poundstone
21 Kind of quartz
22 Vizquel of baseball
23 Approximately
25 Puzzling problem
26 "Pete: Pan" pooch
27 Hester Prynne's kid
28 Kids connect them
30 Shorten a skirt
31 Social climber
32 James of "Misery"
35 Clocs
38 Owl or eagle
40 New Hampshire's motto
45 — -do-well
46 Shelley showcase
47 Lauder powder
48 Squealers
51 Zodiac crustacean
53 32 Across' co-star
56 Mountaineers' gear
59 "Darn!"
61 Envelope abbr.
63 Indeed
65 Egyptian Nobelist
66 "Battle Cry" author
67 Alibi
68 Coaching legend
72 Came by
73 Exclude
74 Actress Hagen
75 Misjudge
76 "Make a decision!"
80 Big —, CA
81 "What —, a mind reader?"
82 Appearance
83 Royal abbr.
84 Most meager
86 Pres., e.g.
87 Delhi dress
88 Assail
90 Author Gratton
91 Cry over a mouse?
92 Lena of "Havana"
93 Showy shrub
95 High-toned guy?
99 Couch
101 Wax device
103 Praise
105 Summon mommy
106 Enthusiastic review
108 Hamlet's line
113 "Islands in the —" ('83 hit)
115 Frame of mind
116 "Nonsense!"
117 Terrible
118 Boar's beloved
120 Rigaton, relative
123 Bridal path?
127 Brainchild
128 Hebrew text
131 Survival option
134 "Oh, woe!"
135 Honshu metropolis
136 Furry fisherman
137 Tourist isle
138 Riga resident
139 Katmandu's country
140 Peter of Herman's Hermits
141 List ender

DOWN

1 Interstate exit
2 — vera
3 Writer Paretsky
4 Give it one's awl?
5 Cal. page
6 Guitarist Sussman
7 Acted promptly?
8 Besides
9 Ecclesiastic
10 Cartographer's creation
11 Give it — (try)
12 Hasty
13 That's no bull!
14 Grammy winner Woody
15 Dragon or Dracula
16 Words for a wimp
17 Lord's lair
18 Spirited steed
24 Norwegian name
29 Disconsolate
33 Humorist Buchwald
34 Tide type
35 Earliest
37 Word with cow or horse
39 Acts like a chicken
40 Tennis stroke
41 Bell Wells
42 Donkey doc
43 Bulldogs
44 A shape that stops traffic
49 Tiny Tim
50 Soap opera, e.g.
52 Cassius' cohort
54 Pupil's place
55 Medieval menial
57 Bouquet
58 Mississippi port
60 Gary and Elizabeth
62 Kickoff
64 Muppet drummer
68 Quiet partner?
69 Hosts
70 Halloween greeting
71 Ancient deity
73 Shakespearean tragedy
77 German poet
78 Air bear?
79 Flexed, as muscles
85 Born
87 Italian wine
88 "The Jungle Book" bear
89 Glum drop?
94 Parental sibling
96 Sgt. or cpl.
97 Solid circle
98 New York city
100 Polo's place
102 Bk. convenience
104 — -wop
107 Singer Sheena
109 Literary pseudonym
110 Bright inventor?
111 Dictator
112 Pyramus' paramour
113 Move like 51 Across
114 "Archie" character
117 Push-button predecessor
119 Envelop
121 Schipa or Jackson
122 Up on
124 Flatten a fly
125 Kadrova of "Zorba the Greek"
126 Runner Zatopek
129 Record abbr.
130 Smith or Foster
132 Novelist Kesey
133 Vein contents



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. LANGUAGE: What is another name for a prestidigitator?
2. SCIENCE: What is studied in the science of speleology?
3. MOVIES: Who had the starring role in "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town"?
4. PRESIDENTS: Which president banned segregation in the armed forces?
5. FOOD: What is the main ingredient in sauerkraut?
6. HISTORY: Which Mexican revolutionary said, "It is better to die on your feet than live on your knees."
7. COMICS: Who was editor of The Daily Planet in "Superman" comics?
8. GEOGRAPHY: What body of water lies between the island of Sardinia and mainland Italy?
9. PERSONALITIES: What is Yogi Berra's real name?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which news anchor wrote the book "The Camera Never Blinks"?

Answers

1. Magician
2. Caves
3. Gary Cooper
4. Harry Truman in 1948
5. Cabbage
6. Emiliano Zapata
7. Perry White
8. Tyrrhenian Sea
9. Lawrence Peter Berra
10. Dan Rather

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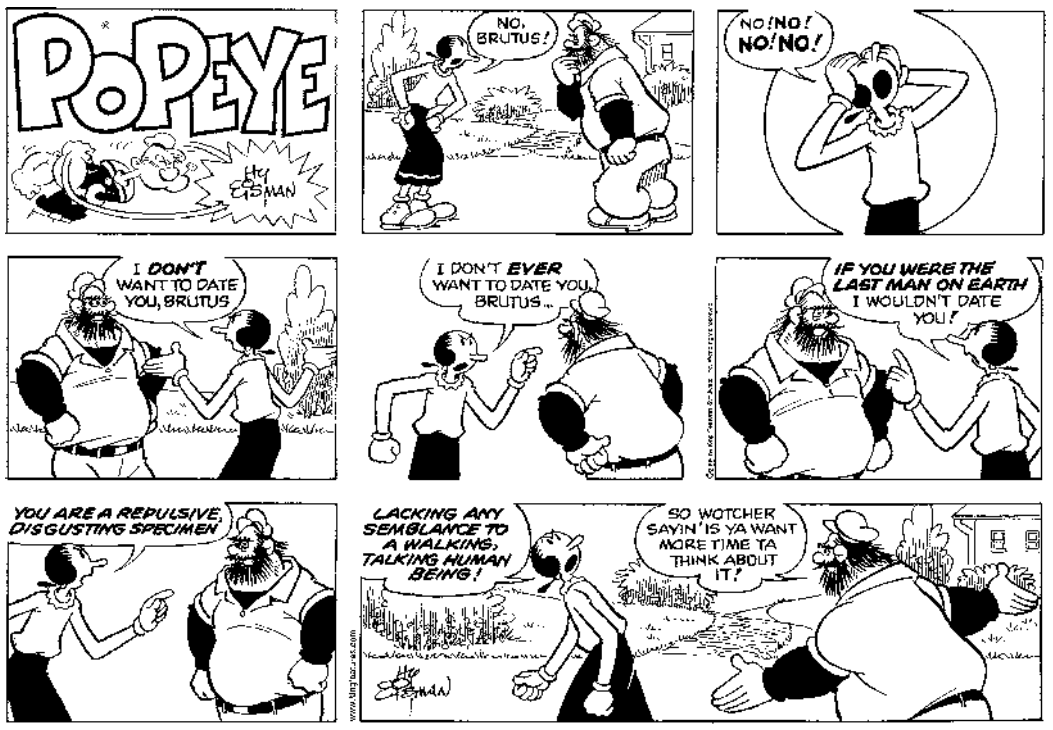
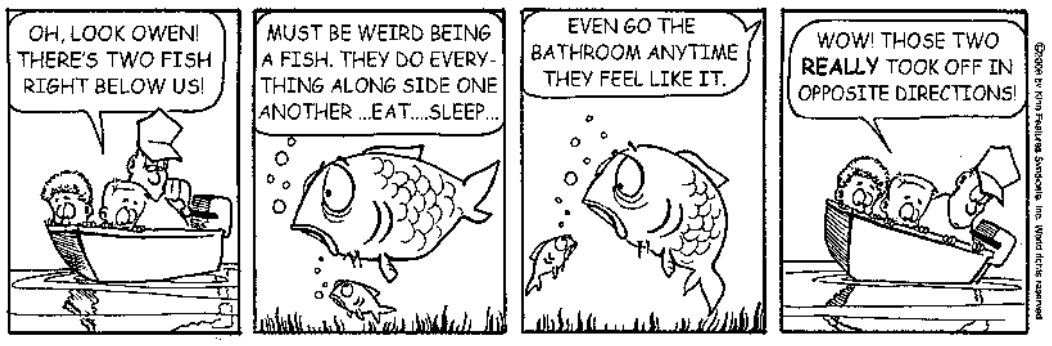
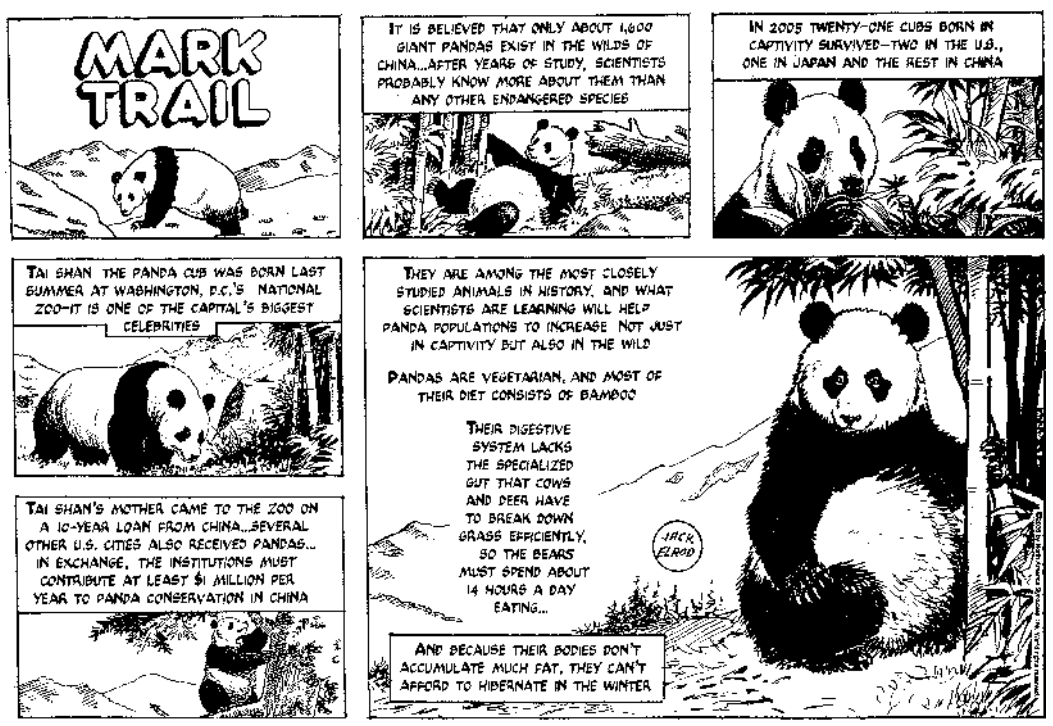
Saturday's Answers

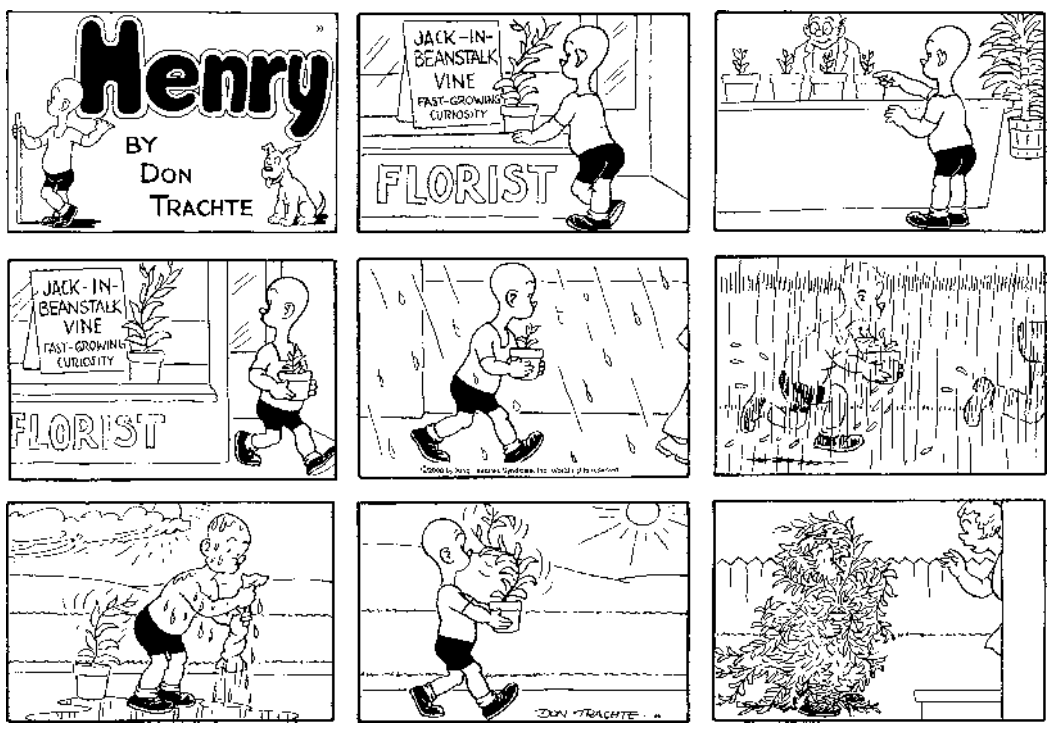

POPEYE
Hy Eisman
NO, BRUTUS!
NO! NO! NO! NO!
I DON'T WANT TO DATE YOU, BRUTUS
I DON'T EVER WANT TO DATE YOU, BRUTUS...
IF YOU WERE THE LAST MAN ON EARTH I WOULDN'T DATE YOU!
YOU ARE A REPULSIVE DISGUSTING SPECIMEN
LACKING ANY SEMBLANCE TO A WALKING, TALKING HUMAN BEING!
SO WOTCHER SAYIN' IS YA WANT MORE TIME TA THINK ABOUT IT?

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps


OH, LOOK OWEN! THERE'S TWO FISH RIGHT BELOW US!
MUST BE WEIRD BEING A FISH. THEY DO EVERYTHING ALONG SIDE ONE ANOTHER ...EAT....SLEEP...
EVEN GO THE BATHROOM ANYTIME THEY FEEL LIKE IT.
WOW! THOSE TWO REALLY TOOK OFF IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS!

The Spats by Jeff Pickering


MARK TRAIL
IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONLY ABOUT 1,600 GIANT PANDAS EXIST IN THE WILDS OF CHINA...AFTER YEARS OF STUDY, SCIENTISTS PROBABLY KNOW MORE ABOUT THEM THAN ANY OTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES
IN 2005 TWENTY-ONE CUBS BORN IN CAPTIVITY SURVIVED—TWO IN THE U.S., ONE IN JAPAN AND THE REST IN CHINA
TAI SHAN THE PANDA CUB WAS BORN LAST SUMMER AT WASHINGTON, D.C.'S NATIONAL ZOO—IT IS ONE OF THE CAPITAL'S BIGGEST CELEBRITIES
TAI SHAN'S MOTHER CAME TO THE ZOO ON A 10-YEAR LOAN FROM CHINA...SEVERAL OTHER U.S. CITIES ALSO RECEIVED PANDAS... IN EXCHANGE, THE INSTITUTIONS MUST CONTRIBUTE AT LEAST $1 MILLION PER YEAR TO PANDA CONSERVATION IN CHINA
THEY ARE AMONG THE MOST CLOSELY STUDIED ANIMALS IN HISTORY, AND WHAT SCIENTISTS ARE LEARNING WILL HELP PANDA POPULATIONS TO INCREASE NOT JUST IN CAPTIVITY BUT ALSO IN THE WILD
PANDAS ARE VEGETARIAN, AND MOST OF THEIR DIET CONSISTS OF BAMBOO
THEIR DIGESTIVE SYSTEM LACKS THE SPECIALIZED GUT THAT COWS AND DEER HAVE TO BREAK DOWN GRASS EFFICIENTLY, SO THE BEARS MUST SPEND ABOUT 14 HOURS A DAY EATING...
AND BECAUSE THEIR BODIES DON'T ACCUMULATE MUCH FAT, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO HIBERNATE IN THE WINTER
JACK ELROD



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235- NEWS

NFLPA head Gene Upshaw dies of cancer at age 63

NEW YORK (AP)—Gene Upshaw, a towering lineman on the football field who went on to win untold millions of dollars for NFL players as their union leader, has died at age 63.

Upshaw had a Hall of Fame career as a guard for the Oakland Raiders—a team that won two of the three Super Bowls it reached during his 15 years in a black and silver jersey. But his work as executive director of the NFL Players Association over a quarter-century was even more important. It changed the business side of the league.

Upshaw died Wednesday night at his home near California's Lake Tahoe, of pancreatic cancer, the NFL Players Association said Thursday. His wife Terri and sons Eugene Jr., Justin and Daniel were by his side. NFLPA president and Tennessee Titans center Kevin Mawae said Upshaw only learned Sunday that he had the disease, after he fell ill and his wife took him to the hospital.

"Gene was a great player. He was an All-Pro. He was a Hall of Famer. If you look at the history of the NFL you're going to find out that he was one of the most influential people that the league has known. He did so much, not only for the players, but also for the owners, the teams, and the game of pro football," John Madden, who coached Upshaw when Oakland won its first Super Bowl, said in a statement.

"This is deeper than head of the union passing away, and it's deeper than an ex-player. This is missing someone that is and was like family. It's a tough day for all of us."

Upshaw's death reverberated throughout the NFL, a shock to owners and players alike, even those who had made him the focal point for their complaints over pension and health benefits for retired players.

As a player, the seven-time Pro Bowler was one of the best ever, elected to the Hall of Fame in 1987, the first time he was eligible.

That also was the year Upshaw led the second players' strike in five years, a short walkout that led to the embarrassing spectacle of games with replacement players, or "scab football" as it was jokingly called at the time.

By 1989, while the union was pressing in court for a settlement, the league implemented a limited form of freedom, called Plan B. A new, seven-year contract was finally worked out in 1993, bringing in a new age of free agency and salary caps.

AP

In this Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008 file photo, Gene Upshaw, executive director of the National Football League Players Association, is seen during a news conference, in Phoenix.

That will go down as Upshaw's legacy because it brought prosperity to both union members and owners, leaving many of today's players appreciating Upshaw as a labor leader without knowing much about his playing career. Brandon Moore, the New York Jets player representative was 2 years old when Upshaw retired and said simply: "From what I hear, he was a pretty good player."

What Upshaw did for Moore, and his counterparts is make them money—the salary cap for this season is $116 million and the players are making close to 60 percent of the 32 teams' total revenues, as specified in the 2006 labor agreement. The players will be paid $4.5 billion this year, according to owners.

That sum led the owners to opt out in May from the collective bargaining agreement, meaning that if no new deal is reached, there will be an uncapped year in 2010, the season before the contract is expected to expire.

Upshaw, who had often been criticized for his close relationship with Paul Tagliabue, the former commissioner, and Roger Goodell, the current one, had been talking tougher than usual about upcoming negotiations, vowing that if the cap was ever abolished, he would never accede to a new one.

Upshaw's death raises a big question mark about negotiations although the union's executive committee tried to answer it quickly by appointing the union's most experienced official, Richard Berthelsen, as the interim executive director.

Berthelsen, the NFLPA's chief counsel and Upshaw's top aide, has been involved in labor negotiations for 37 years and is expected to steer the union through the negotiations and then make way for a younger man, probably an ex-player such as Trace Armstrong or Troy Vincent, two past presidents, or former Minnesota running back Robert Smith, who has expressed an interest in the job.

But those decisions are in the future. On Wednesday, people from both the sports and labor world rushed to pay tribute to Upshaw, one of the few African-Americans to lead a major union. That there were few indications that Upshaw was ill made his death even harder to take.

"He was and will remain a part of the fabric of our lives and of the Raider mystique and legacy," Raiders owner Al Davis said. "We loved him and he loved us. We will miss him."

Said Indianapolis Colts center and player representative Jeff Saturday: "Everybody can sit back, and obviously, some people might criticize some of the things he's done, but overall, I don't think you could have asked for a better leader."

Upshaw, blunt to a fault, wasn't universally loved, especially by the retired players—he once said "I represent the current players" when reminded about their complaints about health care and benefits.

When Joe DeLamielleure, also a Hall of Fame guard, criticized Upshaw, the former Raider replied: "I'd like to break his neck." But DeLamielleure was among to the first to react to Upshaw's death.

"The reality of life for all the guys who played in the NFL, including Gene, is that we have a short life span. It's just the way it is," he said. "I have sympathy for his family. I have sympathy for his wife and children."

Upshaw's friends also recognized the strike-back part of his nature.

"In both careers, if you hit him in the head, he could hit you back twice as hard, but he didn't always do so," Tagliabue said. "He was very tough but also a good listener. He never lost sight of the interests of the game and the big picture."

Many others echoed those thoughts.

"Gene Upshaw did everything with great dignity, pride, and conviction," Goodell said. "He was the rare individual who earned his place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame both for his accomplishments on the field and for his leadership of the players off the field. He fought hard for the players and always kept his focus on what was best for the game. His leadership played a crucial role in taking the NFL and its players to new heights."

Detroit Lions president Matt Millen was a rookie in 1980 when veteran Upshaw took him under his wing and Oakland won its second Super Bowl. He remembered his friend this way.

"You can look at that body of work that he had when he played and he's in the Hall of Fame," he said. "You look at the body of work since he's played and it's Hall-of-Fame material, too."

US beats Brazil 1-0 for gold medal

BEIJING (AP)—They came to the Beijing Olympics as a team trying to find its way, still adjusting to a new coach and each other, still smarting from a loss that brought humiliation on and off the field.

They dropped their first game, hardly an auspicious start for a country that had lost only one other in three Olympics. But bit by bit, game by game, they came together, figuring out what it would take to win.

On Thursday night, the U.S. women's soccer team stood as one, Olympic gold medals around their necks, champions once again.

"Vindicated? I feel great, I feel amazing. I just won a gold medal," said goalkeeper Hope Solo, whose banishment at last year's World Cup symbolizes the struggles these Americans have had and without whom they wouldn't have won this game.

Solo made save after save to keep the United States in the game, and Carli Lloyd scored in the sixth minute of extra time to give the United States a 1-0 victory over Brazil and the gold medal for a third time in four Olympics.

It was the first victory in a major tournament for new coach Pia Sundhage, who took over less than nine months ago.

"It was hard, and this win wasn't just down to my goal," Lloyd said. "It was only achievable with the team we have and that we played for each other."

United now, the Americans were ripped apart at last year's World Cup, also in China.

Though Solo had allowed only two goals in four World Cup starts and had a shutout streak of nearly 300 minutes going, then-coach Greg Ryan decided to sit her for the semifinal against Brazil and play veteran Briana Scurry. The move was a disaster, and the United States—a favorite to win the tournament—was humbled 4-0, its worst loss ever at a World Cup.

Solo lashed out at Ryan, and was banished. A month later, Ryan was fired.

"I went through hell. A lot of people did," Solo said. "But I feel stronger in the end. I know it sounds crazy, but I'm glad I went though it. I learned a lot about myself."

And she has a gold medal as the result.

After the game ended, Solo sprinted back out onto the field, a gaudy imitation gold medal around her neck, a phone to her ear and a bright smile on her face. She closed her eyes when the national anthem began playing, and bounced proudly and gripped her medal when the team posed for pictures afterward.

A few fans in the crowd chanted, "We want Hope! We want Hope!"

"I asked two questions: Do you want to win? Yes. Do you need goalkeepers to win? Yes," Sundhage said. "We had to move on, and this day you could see that we did it."

Emotion poured from the Americans at the final whistle. They charged to the middle of the field, screaming in celebration. A few grabbed American flags and sprinted to the U.S. fans in the stands. Mostly though, they beamed, those long months of tension and uncertainty suddenly far away.

"This is such a reward for nine months of hard, hard work and soul-searching after the World Cup," Kate Markgraf said.

For the Brazilians, it was yet another bitter disappointment, the third consecutive time they've been the runner-up at a top event. They outplayed the Americans in the 2004 final, too, and lost in extra time. They also fell to Germany in the World Cup final last year.

As jubilant as the Americans were, the Brazilians were just as despondent. Goalkeeper Barbara lay on her back when the game ended, sobbing, while Cristiane sat on the ground crying.

"I have no idea why we can't win a final," said Marta, who sobbed when she got her silver medal, her lip quivering. "It's something I'm gonna keep asking myself for a long time. You keep asking what you did wrong."

The two-time FIFA Player of the Year has nothing to regret. Her speed and control mesmerized the American defenders, and her cat-like quickness allowed her to get to balls no other player would have come close to. She was credited with six shots on goal, but she seemed to be in Solo's personal space more often than a pickpocket.

"I'm more mad than sad," Marta said. "Again we had a chance to win the gold and again we let it slip away. It's hard to say why that keeps happening to us."

Halladay wins third straight against Yankees

TORONTO (AP)—Roy Halladay beat the Yankees for the third straight time, Marco Scutaro hit a three-run homer, and Toronto handed New York its worst loss of the season, 14-3 in the American League on Thursday.

New York's previous worst loss was 12-2 at home to Baltimore on May 20.

Halladay (15-9) improved to 13-5 in 30 career games against the Yankees, allowing three runs and five hits in seven innings. He walked two and matched a season high with nine strikeouts.

Joe Inglett had a career-high four hits and Scutaro matched career highs with four hits and four RBIs as Toronto had 21 hits, one shy of a club high this season.

Alex Rios, Adam Lind both had three hits for the Blue Jays, and Rios and Matt Stairs drove in three runs each.

Indians 10, Royals 3

At Cleveland, Cliff Lee won his AL-leading 18th game and Grady Sizemore had a career-high seven RBIs to give Cleveland a commanding win over Kansas City.

Lee (18-2), who won his seventh straight decision, allowed three runs—two earned—and six hits in seven innings. The left-hander struck out seven and induced four double plays. Lee leads the league in winning percentage (.900) and ERA (2.43).

Sizemore had a three-run triple in the second, a run-scoring single in the sixth and a three-run homer in the eighth.

Twins 2, Angels 1, 12 innings

At Anaheim, California, Nick Punto tripled and scored on a single by rookie Denard Span in the 12th inning to help Minnesota pull within a half-game of Chicago in the AL Central.

Former Twins Gold Glove center fielder Torii Hunter missed catching Punto's drive by inches on a leaping attempt in front of the 18-foot wall in right-center. One out later, Justin Speier (1-7) gave up Span's hit inside third base.

Jesse Crain (5-2) pitched a perfect 11th for the win, and Joe Nathan got the Angels 1-2-3 in the 12th for his 35th save.

The Angels have lost six of eight, but still lead Texas by 15 games in the AL West.

Anaheim starter John Lackey allowed a run and five hits in eight innings.

Athletics 2, Mariners 0

At Seattle, Emil Brown homered for Oakland and Greg Smith allowed four hits over six innings to beat Seattle for his first win since June.

Carlos Gonzalez added an RBI single in the top of the ninth.

Rookie reliever Brad Ziegler allowed a single by Jose Lopez, a double by Tug Hulett and walked Jeff Clement to load the bases with one out in the bottom of the inning. He got No. 9 hitter Yuniesky Betancourt to chop into a double play for his fourth save.

Oakland won for the seventh time in 32 games since the All-Star break.

Mets 5, Braves 4

At New York, Carlos Delgado tied his career high with five hits, the last a run-scoring single in the bottom of the ninth that gave the New York Mets a victory over the Atlanta Braves.

David Wright hit a one-out double off Vladimir Nunez (0-1), and Carlos Beltran was intentionally walked before Delgado hit a sharp liner to left. Omar Infante slipped as he tried to track down the drive, and the ball glanced off his glove.

Wright, who briefly stopped before third when he thought Infante might catch it, scored easily as the Mets poured out of the dugout.

Wright had three hits, including his 25th homer, for New York.

Luis Ayala (2-8) pitched 1 1-3 shutout innings to earn his first win since he was acquired from Washington on Sunday.

Nationals 4, Phillies 3

At Philadelphia, Austin Kearns hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth and Washington edged Philadelphia to snap a 12-game losing streak.

The Phillies blew an eighth-inning lead for the third time in nine days.

Ryan Madson (3-2) couldn't protect a one-run lead after Carlos Ruiz put Philadelphia ahead with a solo homer in the seventh.

Jesus Flores' RBI single in the eighth tied it at 3 and Kearns lined his single to give the Nationals the lead and their first victory since a doubleheader sweep of Colorado on Aug. 7.

AP

Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Roy Halladay delivers during third-inning AL action against the New York Yankees in Toronto on Thursday, Aug.21, 2008.

Cubs 3, Reds 2

At Chicago, Carlos Zambrano earned his 13th victory on the fourth try and homered to lift Chicago over Cincinnati.

Zambrano (13-5) allowed a run and six hits in seven innings, including a solo homer by Jay Bruce in the sixth. The Cubs' ace had two no-decisions and a loss in his previous three starts, giving up 17 hits and 15 earned runs in 15 1-3 innings.

Dodgers 3, Rockies 1

In Los Angeles, Derek Lowe allowed one run in 6 1-3 innings, and James Loney homered and had two RBIs as Los Angeles salvaged the finale of a three-game series.

The victory gave the Dodgers a 7-3 record on their 10-game homestand and moved them within 1 1/2 games of division-leading Arizona in Major League Baseball's National League West.

The loss snapped a five-game winning streak for the Rockies.

Giants 4, Marlins 3

In San Francisco, Emmanuel Burriss scored the winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the ninth inning for San Francisco.

Burriss drew a one-out walk from closer Kevin Gregg (6-6), stole second and took third on a fly out. Pinch-hitter Bengie Molina was intentionally walked, but Gregg's first pitch to Fred Lewis skipped past catcher John Baker, allowing Burriss to score standing up.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 1

At Phoenix, Brandon Webb pitched seven shutout innings for his career-high and major league-leading 19th victory in Arizona's over San Diego.

It was the sixth straight winning start for Webb (19-4), giving him eight wins in his last 11 starts. He allowed three hits with eight strikeouts, both tying season bests, as the Diamondbacks completed a three-game sweep.

Arizona won for the eighth time in the last 10 games and maintained a two-game lead over Los Angeles in the NL West.

Tony Clark hit a sacrifice fly in the second inning and Connor Jackson had a two-run double in the fifth, both off Chad Reineke (1-1).

Mahan shoots 62 to take lead in The Barclays

PARAMUS, N.J. (AP)—With two perfect shots, Hunter Mahan put a terrible week at the PGA Championship behind him at The Barclays.

Playing in calm morning conditions at demanding Ridgewood Country Club, Mahan split the fairway with his opening drive, then watched his 98-yard sand wedge shot spin back into the hole for an unlikely eagle. Seventeen holes and eight birdies later, he signed for a 9-under 62, good for a four-stroke lead Thursday in the FedEx Cup playoff opener.

"I was surprised to shoot so low," Mahan said. "I didn't have any idea what was going to be a good score out here. ... It's definitely not that easy. It's perfect conditions. You've got great weather. The course is in perfect shape right now. Playing in the morning helped a lot. The greens were a little bit more receptive."

Two weeks ago in the PGA at Oakland Hills, the 26-year-old former Oklahoma State player shot 81-79 to miss the cut, and made news with critical remarks about the Ryder Cup in a Golf magazine interview.

"I wanted to get that out of my system and just play golf today—and I did," Mahan said. "It was a pretty tough week, but you learn from your mistakes."

England's Paul Casey shot a 66, and Bo Van Pelt, Kevin Streelman, Mathew Goggin, Charley Hoffman and afternoon starter Dudley Hart had 67s. Steve Stricker, the winner last year at Westchester Country Club, topped the group at 68.

Trying to earn a spot on the Ryder Cup team as one of Paul Azinger's four captain's picks, Mahan hit 11 of 14 fairways, 15 greens in regulation and needed only 23 putts.

"The greens are good. I mean, they're perfect. Perfect speed," Mahan said. "I think you can be aggressive. I was committed to my lines and made aggressive strokes."

Mahan birdied Nos. 4, 5 and 7, holing putts from 21, 12 and 4 feet, to get to 5 under. He bogeyed the par-3 eighth, got the stroke back with a 7-foot birdie putt on No. 10 and added a 14-footer on 12.

On the 615-yard, par-5 13th, he hammered a 332-yard drive, hit a 3-wood 265 yards to just short of the green and chipped to 4 feet to set up another birdie. He followed that with a curving 40-footer on the par-3 14th, and capped the round on the par-4 18th with a 180-yard shot to 3 feet for his eighth birdie.

Mahan, 31st in the FedEx Cup standings, established the course record in the first PGA Tour round on the A.W. Tillinghast-designed layout—a composite of Ridgewood's three nine-hole courses.

"I thought the scores weren't going to be as low," Phil Mickelson said after his morning 70. "Hunter had such a great round and there were some 4- or 5-under par rounds. So my 1-under par round is not as good as I thought it would be, but I thought I played well and I'll take it."

With the groupings based on FedEx Cup points, Mickelson played alongside British Open and PGA winner Padraig Harrington (72) and Kenny Perry (69), effectively the points leader with top-ranked Tiger Woods sidelined by a knee injury.

"The rough here is terrible," said Perry, returning from an eye injury that forced him to withdraw after the first round of the PGA.

The 48-year-old Perry, a three-time winner this season, wondered how Mahan managed to shoot a 62 on the tree-lined course that places a premium on accurate driving.

"It never ceases to amaze me, the PGA Tour," Perry said. "There are tournaments where I'll shoot 6 or 7 under and that's as good as I can play and the winner is 21 under and I'm thinking, `How did they do that? Did they quit after 15 or what?'"

Harrington, the 2005 winner at Westchester, made a double bogey on 18—his ninth hole—and also had a 6 on the 586-yard par-5 third.

"I know it's difficult out there and the rough is tough, but that was just bad play," the Irish star said.

Mahan had his fifth 62 in five full seasons on the tour. Last year, he opened with a 62 en route to a playoff victory in the Travelers and also matched his career best in the Canadian Open and at Westchester, the tournament site the previous 41 seasons.

"When he gets hot, he does do some crazy stuff," Goggin said. "If you drive the ball well you have some birdie chances and, if you don't, you struggle to break par."

80 expected for today's Sufa Golf tourney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Sufa Softball Association is expecting over 80 participants to take part in its golf fundraiser today at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville.

The organization's vice president Joe Salas said the event, dubbed simply as the Sufa Golf Tournament, will award $300 in cash for first place, while second and third runners-up will take home $200 and $100, respectively.

Salas added that the event is Sufa Softball Association's last and final fundraising before the team departs to the 4th Annual Labor Day Softball Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sufa Golf Tournament will have a registration time of between 10:30am and 11:45am with a shotgun start of 12pm. Tournament fee is $100.

After the tournament, players are requested to proceed to the awards banquet presentation at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.

Salas said the proceeds from the fundraiser will once again help defray the cost of airfare, hotel, and other miscellaneous expenses of the team while they compete in Nevada.

Aside from first to third place, organizers would also award prizes to golfers who end up in fourth to 10th place.

The prizes are as follows: two free golf tickets at Laolao Bay Golf Resort for fourth and fifth; $20 Marianas Shell gas certificate and dinner at Hyatt Regency Saipan for sixth; $20 Marianas Shell gas certificate and lunch at Palm Resort Saipan for seventh, eighth, and ninth places, and Marianas Shell gas certificate and waterpark gift certificate for two at Pacific Island Club for 10th place.

Highest gross will also go home with a water park pass for two to PIC, while a hole-in-one will net a live deer. There will also be a longest drive competition in the 18th hole but the prize is still not available.

FIVB

From Page 28

cific which was given a privilege to take part in the FIVB program this year. The other six were Palau in March, Fiji in April, Tonga in May, the Solomon Islands in June, Vanuatu in July, and Papua New Guinea next month.

FIVB sent veteran coach Tomas Santamaria to Saipan to conduct a clinic from Aug. 20 to 27.

"The clinic aims to teach CNMI players/coaches the skills in volleyball, theories, techniques, and the proper way of coaching," said the Melbourne-based Santamaria.

Mini South Pacific Games veteran Mili Saiki and Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association official Russ Quinn, who coached the CNMI beach volleyball team in last year's Pacific Games in Samoa, were among those who attended the first day of the clinic Wednesday night. They were impressed with Santamaria's coaching style and playing skills, and encouraged interested individuals to attend the seminar.

"He is a very good coach. He taught us new techniques, which are being used in big leagues all over the world," Saiki said.

It's a great opportunity for young coaches and players to learn more from an expert. It's not every day that we get a chance to be part of FIVB'a program," Quinn said.

Before joining FIVB in 1990 as an instructor, Santamaria coached the Australian Men's Volleyball Team for 10 years. He was also a member of the Philippine Team in the early '50s and played in the Asian Games and coached the RP squad in the World Women's Volleyball Championships and the first Asian Women's Volleyball Championships in the '70s.

Santamaria was happy to see CNMI coaches/players having an adequate knowledge about the sport.

"I am quite surprised to find people who have better understanding of the sport and its rules in a small island like Saipan. It is a good sign for the development of volleyball, both indoor and beach volleyball," Santamaria said.

"The local organization (NMIVA), just needs to get more people, especially the youth, involved in coaching and in playing to continue the growth of the sport in the Commonwealth. The skills are there, you just need to bring it to another level through clinics and tournaments," he added.

The clinic, which runs from 3pm to 10pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, will continue next week and is still open to interested individuals.

For more information, contact NMIVA president Laurie Peterka at 483-7499 or laurie.peterka@saipan.com or Quinn 287-0318 or at saipanruss@yahoo.com.

SASAMOTO

From Page 28

Asai said they wouldn't have caught the top rudderfish of the contest without the help of their boat captain.

Sasamoto and Asai are the president and vice president of the Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Association, respectively.

Aside from Perry, Laguana, and Siguenza, which collectively call themselves as Team Malate Balate (smart sea slugs), other winners of the annual spearfishing contest were second to fifth placers Steve Meno and Pat Castro (24.81 lbs.), Herb Lagutang and Stoney Soumatua (23.65 lbs.), Myles Driscoll and Todd Genereux (18.78 lbs.), and last year's winners Jess Aguon and Mike Cassidy (12.45 lbs.).

Joining Sasamoto and Asai in the category winners were Jay Sternadell and Robbie Cabreza (Parrot Fish Category, 4.3 lbs.), Joe Cummings and Barnaby Acfalle (Unicorn Fish Category, 3.17 lbs.), and Monique Genereux and Pat Atherton (Orange-Spined Unicorn Fish Category, 0.84 lbs.).

Other Saipan spearfishermen that took part in the 4th Annual Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation Spearfishing Challenge were the teams of Frank Pangelinan, Tony Roberts, and Martin Camacho and Ed Aguon and Derek San Nicolas.

SUN

From Page 28

Games venue several hundred kilometers away from a real beach, Rogers and Dalhausser won the gold medal by beating Fabio and Marcio of Brazil 23-21, 17-21, 15-4.

Rogers and Dalhausser must have enjoyed the warm weather. Dalhausser, although born in Switzerland, moved to Santa Barbara, California, when he was 1. Rogers was born there and lives nearby.

The closest real beach to the manmade Olympic facility is east of Beijing at Beidaihe on the Bohai Sea, which is best known as the Communist Party of China's summer retreat.

Marcio, who said "it's hard to find words to console us," paid credit to his opponents.

"They covered the court well, especially during crucial moments in the third set," Marcio said.

The American win came a day after Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor fought driving rain to win their second straight gold for the U.S. women.

"We're in good company," Rogers said.

The sunshine and high humidity posed more problems for the 50-kilometer walkers Friday, with Alex Schwazer of Italy taking men's gold ahead of Jared Tallent of Australia in 30 degree C (85 degree F) temperatures.

Schwazer finished in 3 hours, 37 minutes, 9 seconds, taking 1:20 minutes off the 20-year-old Olympic record. Denis Nizhegorodov of Russia, the silver medalist from the Athens Games and world record holder, took bronze.

With two-thirds of the race gone, pre-race favorite Yohan Diniz of France stepped out with a hamstring injury and stomach pains.

"I just cracked mentally and physically," Diniz said. "The conditions were very hard."

World champion Maris Strombergs of Latvia won the gold medal in men's BMX cycling, holding off Americans Mike Day and Donny Robinson for the title. Anne-Caroline Chausson of France took gold in the women's race.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	77	49	.611	_
Boston	73	54	.575	4 1/2
New York	67	60	.528	10 1/2
Toronto	66	61	.520	11 1/2
Baltimore	61	65	.484	16

Central Division

Chicago	73	53	.579	_
Minnesota	73	54	.575	1/2
Detroit	62	65	.488	11 1/2
Cleveland	59	67	.468	14
Kansas City	55	72	.433	18 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	77	49	.611	_
Texas	63	65	.492	15
Oakland	58	69	.457	19 1/2
Seattle	46	81	.362	31 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	71	57	.555	_
Philadelphia	68	59	.535	2 1/2
Florida	65	63	.508	6
Atlanta	56	72	.438	15
Washington	45	83	.352	26

Central Division

Chicago	78	49	.614	_
Milwaukee	73	55	.570	5 1/2
St. Louis	71	58	.550	8
Houston	64	63	.504	14
Pittsburgh	57	70	.449	21
Cincinnati	56	72	.438	22 1/2

West Division

Arizona	67	60	.528	_
Los Angeles	65	62	.512	2
Colorado	59	70	.457	9
San Francisco	55	72	.433	12
San Diego	48	79	.378	19

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 10, Kansas City 3
Toronto 14, N.Y. Yankees 3
Minnesota 2, L.A. Angels 1, 12 innings
Oakland 2, Seattle 0
Chicago Cubs 3, Cincinnati 2
L.A. Dodgers 3, Colorado 1
San Francisco 4, Florida 3
Washington 4, Philadelphia 3
N.Y. Mets 5, Atlanta 4
Arizona 4, San Diego 1

THE BARCLAYS SCORES

PARAMUS, New Jersey (AP)–Scores from Thursday's first round of the $7 million (4.73 million euro) The Barclays being played on the 7,319-yard, par-71 Ridgewood Country Club course:

FIRST ROUND

Hunter Mahan	31-31	62
Paul Casey	34-32	66
Bo Van Pelt	35-32	67
Kevin Streelman	33-34	67
Mathew Goggin	33-34	67
Charley Hoffman	32-35	67
Dudley Hart	32-35	67
George McNeill	31-37	68
Adam Scott	35-33	68
Rich Beem	34-34	68
Jesper Parnevik	35-33	68
Steve Stricker	31-37	68
Bubba Watson	34-34	68
Briny Baird	34-35	69
Kenny Perry	35-34	69
Brian Davis	35-34	69
Corey Pavin	35-34	69
Patrick Sheehan	34-35	69
John Merrick	36-33	69
Aaron Baddeley	32-37	69
Robert Allenby	34-35	69
Angel Cabrera	33-36	69
Ryan Palmer	31-38	69
Tim Herron	34-35	69
John Mallinger	35-35	70
Cliff Kresge	34-36	70
Billy Mayfair	35-35	70
Jim Furyk	36-34	70
Justin Leonard	35-35	70
Phil Mickelson	33-37	70
Rocco Mediate	34-36	70
Jon Mills	36-34	70
Martin Laird	32-38	70
Lucas Glover	35-35	70
Paul Goydos	35-35	70
Sergio Garcia	36-34	70
Anthony Kim	32-38	70
Vijay Singh	34-36	70
Trevor Immelman	33-37	70
Rory Sabbatini	36-34	70
Kevin Sutherland	36-34	70
Tim Clark	37-33	70
J.J. Henry	37-33	70
Glen Day	35-35	70
Tom Lehman	32-39	71
Tim Petrovic	34-37	71
John Senden	34-37	71
Steve Marino	35-36	71
Brandt Snedeker	33-38	71
Boo Weekley	36-35	71
Chad Campbell	35-36	71
Johnson Wagner	37-34	71
Brett Quigley	35-36	71
Justin Bolli	36-35	71
Steve Elkington	35-36	71
Stuart Appleby	36-35	71
Rod Pampling	33-38	71
Ben Curtis	35-36	71
Ernie Els	36-35	71
J.B. Holmes	36-35	71
Bill Haas	36-35	71
Nick Watney	36-35	71
Frank Lickliter II	31-40	71
Lee Janzen	35-36	71
Charles Warren	36-36	72
Ben Crane	35-37	72
Charlie Wi	33-39	72
Nick O'Hern	35-37	72
Daniel Chopra	35-37	72
Tommy Armour III	36-36	72
Ken Duke	36-36	72
Jerry Kelly	35-37	72
Geoff Ogilvy	35-37	72
Padraig Harrington	35-37	72
Charles Howell III	38-34	72
Zach Johnson	37-35	72
Dean Wilson	37-35	72
Camilo Villegas	37-35	72
Mike Weir	36-36	72
Bart Bryant	35-37	72
Woody Austin	35-37	72
Carl Pettersson	34-38	72
Andres Romero	36-36	72
Mark Wilson	36-36	72
John Rollins	34-38	72
Kevin Na	35-37	72
Steve Flesch	34-38	72
Jonathan Byrd	34-38	72
Scott Verplank	36-37	73
Brian Gay	34-39	73
Sean O'Hair	35-38	73
Ian Poulter	35-38	73
Heath Slocum	38-35	73
Scott McCarron	37-36	73
Tom Pernice, Jr.	35-38	73
Steve Lowery	35-38	73
Stewart Cink	37-36	73
Retief Goosen	38-35	73
Peter Lonard	36-37	73
Shane Bertsch	37-36	73
Michael Allen	38-35	73
Jason Day	36-38	74
Stephen Ames	37-37	74
Jeff Quinney	38-36	74
Parker McLachlin	35-39	74
Chris DiMarco	38-36	74
Jason Gore	38-36	74
David Toms	37-37	74
Richard S. Johnson	35-39	74
James Driscoll	37-37	74
Jay Williamson	36-38	74
K.J. Choi	38-36	74
Matt Kuchar	36-38	74
Joe Ogilvie	38-36	74
Jeff Overton	37-37	74
Dustin Johnson	37-38	75
Fred Couples	39-36	75
Chez Reavie	38-37	75
Vaughn Taylor	35-40	75
Mark Calcavecchia	38-37	75
Joe Durant	36-39	75
Troy Matteson	36-39	75
Fredrik Jacobson	37-38	75
Nicholas Thompson	38-37	75
Ryan Moore	37-39	76
Ryuji Imada	38-38	76
Greg Kraft	39-37	76
Brad Adamonis	38-38	76
D.J. Trahan	37-39	76
Tim Wilkinson	39-37	76
Michael Letzig	37-40	77
Nathan Green	39-38	77
Matt Jones	37-40	77
Pat Perez	38-40	78
Eric Axley	40-38	78

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Medal Count

	G	S	B	Total
United States	30	35	34	99
China	46	15	22	83
Russia	16	16	21	53
Britain	17	12	11	40
Australia	11	14	14	39
France	5	13	14	32
Germany	11	8	12	31
South Korea	10	10	6	26
Japan	9	6	9	24
Italy	7	7	9	23
Ukraine	5	5	9	19
Netherlands	6	5	4	15
Canada	3	7	5	15
Cuba	2	6	7	15
Belarus	2	3	8	13
Spain	4	5	2	11
Kazakhstan	1	4	5	10
Brazil	1	3	6	10
Jamaica	5	3	1	9
New Zealand	3	1	5	9
Romania	4	1	3	8
Poland	3	4	1	8
Kenya	2	4	2	8
Turkey	1	3	3	7
Azerbaijan	1	2	4	7
Czech Republic	3	3	0	6
Georgia	3	0	3	6
Denmark	2	1	3	6
North Korea	2	1	3	6
Norway	1	3	2	6
Uzbekistan	1	2	3	6
Slovakia	3	1	1	5
Switzerland	2	0	3	5
Slovenia	1	2	2	5
Bulgaria	1	1	3	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Hungary	0	4	1	5
Sweden	0	4	1	5
Lithuania	0	2	3	5
Armenia	0	0	5	5
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Chinese Taipei	0	0	4	4
Ethiopia	2	1	0	3
Finland	1	1	1	3
Argentina	1	0	2	3
Austria	0	1	2	3
Croatia	0	1	2	3
Greece	0	1	2	3
Estonia	1	1	0	2
Mongolia	1	1	0	2
Portugal	1	1	0	2
Thailand	1	1	0	2
India	1	0	1	2
Latvia	1	0	1	2
Mexico	1	0	1	2
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Serbia	0	1	1	2
Tajikistan	0	1	1	2
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Panama	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Dominican Republic	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
Bahamas	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Iran	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1
Venezuela	0	0	1	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

80 expected for today's Sufa Golf tourney
The Sufa Softball Association is expecting over 80 participants to take part in its golf fundraiser today at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville.
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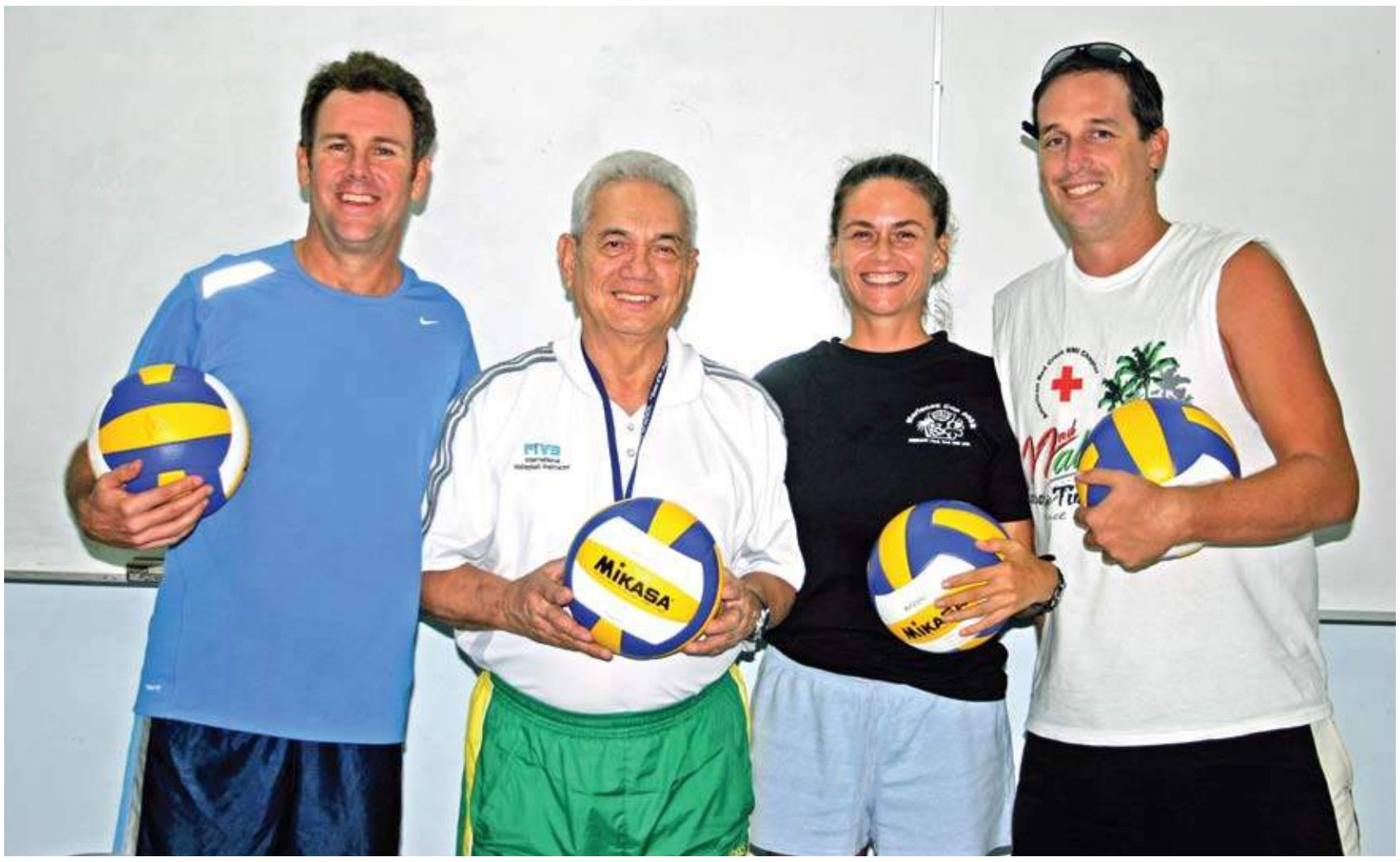
Saipan Tribune
Sports

NFLPA head Gene Upshaw dies of cancer at age 63
Gene Upshaw, a towering lineman on the football field who went on to win untold millions of dollars for NFL players as their union leader, has died at age 63. 25

FIVB reaches out to CNMI



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
FIVB veteran coach Tomas Santamaria, second from left, poses with NMIVA officials, from left, Russ Quinn, Laurie Peterka, and Mark McDonald after Wednesday's Level I Coaching Course at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 20-year-old Volleyball Cooperation Program of the Federation Internationale de Volleyball has reached the CNMI with a veteran coach from Australia conducting the weeklong Level I Coaching Course at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The program was first known as Sports Aid Program with the goal of developing volleyball and beach volleyball in various national federations from all over the world, except Europe, by providing courses for young players, coaches, and referees.

It is also part of the FIVB's Volleyball World Vision 2012, which envisions national federations and confederations to become the most professional organizations, each one at its one level, with modern, flexible, and efficient administration under a professional management setting.

This year, 66 nations from Asia, the Caribbean, Middle East, Africa, and the Pacific were scheduled to benefit from the program.

The CNMI is one of only seven islands in the Pa-

Newcomer is SGA August Ace

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

First time's a charm for the newest member of Saipan Golf Association as Ron Hodges won its August Ace of the Month Tournament held last Sunday at the Marianas Country Club.

The Marianas High School teacher nipped two other SGA members for the monthly plum after all three finished with identical net scores of 68.

Hodges, who fired a tourney best gross score of 75 (38-37), beat out Tony Guerrero and Larry I. Guerrero with a par on the playoff hole. Tony Guerrero (85 gross, 38-47) took second place with a bogey on hole No. 11, while Larry Guerrero (87, 44-43) needed two extra putts to seal the deal.

Aside from taking home the August award, Hodges also had the most birdies of the day at four, followed by Tony Guerrero, Rick Kautz, and Ned Norita with three apiece. Manny Alvarez, Steve Balakrishna, Carl Hocog, Ed Manibusan, Ray Nicolas, and Jung Eun Taeck also recorded a birdie each Sunday.

Another outstanding performance recorded Sunday was an eagle chip into the par-five hole No. 13 made by veteran Ray San Nicolas.

On other events, the longest drive belonged to Ray San Nicolas in hole No. 2, while long knocker Kautz topped hole No. 11. Mariano Fajardo, Ray San Nicolas, and Hodges, for their parts, claimed closest to the pins in holes No. 6, 8, 12, and 16, respectively. The highest gross score at the event was 104 and the highest net was 83.

Sasamoto, Asai catch heaviest rudder fish Guam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Felix Sasamoto, left, and Morito Asai show off two of the fish they caught in last weekend's 4th Annual Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation Spearfishing Challenge held in the waters off Apra Harbor in Guam.

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The partnership of Felix Sasamoto and Morito Asai again paid dividends as the two spearfishermen won the Rudder Fish Category of the 4th Annual Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation Spearfishing Challenge held last weekend in the waters off Apra Harbor in Hagatna, Guam.

Sasamoto and Asai caught a 4.93-lb. rudder fish to top the category of the competition. The Open Category was won by Skip Perry, Ron Laguana II, and Pete Siguenza with their two-fish haul of 77.3 lbs, which included a 63.2-lb. dogtooth tuna.

"We enjoyed the Guam tournament very much. The Guam tournament is a big fish tournament which requires luck. We had some but others got more on that day. Thanks to the MUFF(Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation), Guam Fisherman's Co-op, and the people of Guam," said Asai in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he and Sasamoto caught the prize-winning fish in the northern part of Guam about seven hours after the one-day competition kicked off. They gave the fish to the captain of the boat (*Primo*) they rented, who also happened to be from Saipan.

See SASAMOTO on Page 27

Sun shines on US beach v-ballers, Rogers and Dalhausser take gold

By DENNIS PASSA
AP SPORTS WRITER

RELATED NEWS
US beats Brazil 1-0 for gold medal.
PAGE 25

BEIJING (AP)—The weather was more like California than China, and Todd Rogers and Phil Dalhausser played like they were right at home Friday in the Olympic beach volleyball final.

In blazing sunshine at the Beijing

See SUN on Page 27

Philip Dalhausser, left, and teammate Todd Rogers of the U.S. celebrate winning the gold medal after a men's beach volleyball final match against Brazil at the Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Friday, Aug. 22, 2008.
AP